

FELIXSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Held on Wednesday 22nd January 2014

Present: Councillors Barber, Bird, Deacon, Jan Garfield, Newman, Savage, Sennington, Sharman, Smith, Stokell (items 372-376 only), Walker, Webb and Williams.

372. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jon Garfield, Morris and Slemmings.

373. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Bird, Deacon, Jan Garfield, Savage, Sennington, Sharman, Smith and Williams declared a Local Non Pecuniary Interest as Members of Suffolk Coastal District Council.

Councillors Barber and Newman declared a Local Non Pecuniary Interest as Members of Suffolk County Council.

Councillors Stokell, Webb and Walker declared a pecuniary interest as owners of exclusive rights of burial in Felixstowe Cemetery.

Councillors Savage and Smith declared a non-pecuniary interest in Felixstowe Cemetery.

Councillor Barber declared a pecuniary interest as a trustee of Felixstowe Carnival Association.

Councillor Deacon declared a pecuniary interest as a trustee of Level 2.

374. REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS FOR COUNCILLORS WITH A PECUNIARY INTEREST

Councillors Stokell, Webb and Walker sought and were granted a dispensation for their pecuniary interest as owners of exclusive rights of burial in Felixstowe Cemetery, to remain and vote on cemetery matters.

Councillor Barber sought and was granted a dispensation for his pecuniary interest as a trustee of Felixstowe Carnival Association, to remain and vote on grant matters.

Councillor Deacon sought and was granted a dispensation for his pecuniary interest as a trustee of Level 2, to remain and vote on grant matters.

No other Councillors requested a dispensation.

375. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd October 2013, were confirmed as a true record by those present and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

376. ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED that the Committee noted the financial statement up to 31st December 2013.

377. DRAFT BUDGET AS RECOMMEND BY THE FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

The Committee considered the Draft Budget recommended by the Finance Sub-Committee and recommended its approval to Full Council.

The Committee further considered the new projects recommended by the Finance Sub-Committee and recommended their approval to Full Council.

378. DRAFT GRANT ALLOCATIONS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

The Committee considered the draft grant allocations recommended by the Finance Sub-Committee and recommended their approval to Full Council. The Committee reconsidered the grant to Level 2 and agreed to recommend to Full Council that in addition to the £1,000 grant shown in the draft budget a further grant of £4,000 for 2014/2015 be earmarked from the Community Fund budget.

379. PROPOSED POLICY CHANGES REFERRED FROM THE ALLOTMENTS AND CEMETERIES SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING OF 26th NOVEMBER 2013

The Committee considered and agreed to recommend to Full Council the proposed policy changes referred from Allotments & Cemeteries Sub-Committee meeting held 26th November 2013, namely:-

- a) That discounts, for joint allotment tenancies, apply when one of the joint tenants qualifies for the state pension, and that any discount applies in full, from the date of the next renewal; and
- b) the draft policy regarding memorial benches in the cemetery

380. PROPOSALS FOR CHANGES TO COMMITTEE STRUCTURES

The Committee considered the review of Council and Committee structures and agreed to recommend to Full Council that a Working Group be established to review the extent to which efficiencies within the existing Committee structures could be achieved.

381. QUESTIONNAIRE TO SELECTED FELIXSTOWE HOUSEHOLDS

The Committee considered whether the Town Council wished to make enquiries of Felixstowe residents by way of a questionnaire to selected Felixstowe households, as to their priorities for public services funded by Felixstowe Town Council, Suffolk Coastal District Council, and other organisations, to assist Town Council Members in reaching an informed decision about the future allocation of Town Council funding and agreed to recommend to Full Council that a survey be undertaken. The Clerk was asked to produce a draft questionnaire for consideration at Full Council.

382. REQUEST FOR SPONSORSHIP FROM THE WESEL ASSOCIATION

The Committee considered a request from the Wesel Association for sponsoring tables at the Mayors Charity Ball 2014 and agreed to refuse the application.

383. REPORT OF THE INTERNAL AUDITOR

The Committee received the report of the Independent Internal Auditor and noted the action taken to address the issues raised in the report.

384. OFFER OF SNOW CLEARANCE FROM THE COMMUNITY PAYBACK TEAM

The Committee considered the offer of snow clearance and agreed to recommend to Full Council that such a scheme be introduced to cover the town centre (as defined in the Local Plan).

385. SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL PENSION FUND FUNDING STRATEGY TO 2016/2017

The Committee noted the Actuarial Advice regarding the Suffolk County Council Pension Fund Funding Strategy to 2016/2017.

386. RISK ACTION PLAN REPORT

The Committee noted receipt of the report, the action taken and the further work required to implement the action plans.

387. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

<p>RESOLVED that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted it was advisable in the public interest that the public be temporarily excluded and they were instructed to withdraw.</p>

388. TO CONSIDER AND DETERMINE THE PROPOSED POLICY CHANGES REFERRED FROM ALLOTMENTS & CEMETERIES SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 26TH NOVEMBER 2013

The Committee noted the receipt of the report and agreed to write to all known last addresses for the rights holders and advise them of the situation, giving them the opportunity to purchase the rights for a further 25 years from the expiry date of the previous rights. The Clerk was asked to publicise the matter of expired Exclusive Rights of Burial in the newsletter.

389. TO CONSIDER AND DETERMINE WHETHER TO PROCEED FURTHER WITH THE SOUTH SEAFRONT MANAGEMENT OPTION

The Committee agreed to recommend to Full Council not to proceed further with exploration of this matter.

390. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed at 9.23 p.m.

CHAIRMAN