

Members made suggestions about how to raise the profile of the initiative and ways to promote the event more widely for 2017. It was agreed that a social media campaign should be used to complement

Other enhancements, such as new award categories and the sponsoring of prizes, were discussed and it was agreed that a Working Group should be set up to look at ways of enhancing the event for 2017.

Members commented on the high quality of the new style displays that had been introduced in the shared space area in 2016. It was agreed that, subject to confirmation by the Council's grounds' team that they would ensure the health of the flowers would not be adversely affected, watering could be undertaken by Council staff every other day during Felixstowe in Flower 2017, removing the need for an additional watering contract. The savings made on the cost of watering could be put towards new Holestar style planters and floral displays.

It was RESOLVED that:

- i. a Working Group, comprising the Council's Cemetery & Allotments Officer and Councillors D Savage, S Gallant and S Wiles, be set up to consider raising the profile of, and enhancements to, Felixstowe in Flower in 2017; and,**
- ii. on the proviso that the grounds' team ensure the health of the flowers is not adversely affected, watering of the baskets and tubs be undertaken by Council's own staff and the contracted provision from SC Norse not be renewed for 2017.**

279. DRAFT BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS 2017-18

Committee considered first draft proposals for its element of the Council's 2017-18 budget and reviewed the accompanying notes to the budget estimates in the report.

Members asked that £6,000 be included within cost centre 301 under a new code called 'Christmas Events'. This provision was commensurate with expenditure approved by Council over the previous two years for the ice rink. The Clerk advised that donations and sponsorship could be sought to offset this expenditure and it was agreed that the income estimated from donations and sponsorship for this activity be set at £4,000 within this cost centre.

Initial budget estimations for 'Civic Events' had been set at £600. Members asked that this be increased to £700 at this stage and suggested that F&GP be asked to give further consideration to Civic Events provision.

It was agreed that funding for the monthly cleaning of four bus shelters should be withdrawn for 2017-18. Members requested that the £800 this would have cost to be combined with £800 funding for 'Litter/Dog Bins' within a new code 'Street Furniture' for 2017-18, totalling £1,600.

Following the decision to trial in-house watering of the Felixstowe in Flower baskets and tubs in 2017-18 it was agreed that the cost savings in 'Repairs and Maintenance' be put in to 'Flowers & Containers' in order that a greater investment could be made in the quality of the displays.

The Clerk advised that Suffolk Coastal Norse had provided a quote for the Floral Bedding at the same price as the current year. On this basis it was agreed that SC Norse should provide this service to the Council again in 2017/18.

RESOLVED that, subject to updating cost estimates as outlined above, the draft proposals for the Civic & Community element of the Council's 2017-18 budget be recommended, as per the report, to Council's Finance & General Purposes for further consideration.

280. MAYOR'S CIVIC SERVICE

Committee considered a standard protocol for the setting of the Mayor's Civic Service. It was noted that the event was scheduled for 18th June 2017 and, as this was the third Sunday in June, it was proposed that it be held on this Sunday in future years.

A Member advised that Father's Day was also on this day each year. Committee did not feel this to be a problem but agreed to review the protocol again in future should it prove otherwise.

RESOLVED that the Mayor's Civic Service be held annually on the third Sunday in June.

281. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed at 9.30pm. The next meeting was noted as being scheduled for Wednesday 14 December 2016 at 7.30pm.

Date: _____

Chairman: _____