

FILEY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2014 AT 7.00PM

Present: Cllr S Bosomworth, Cllr J Haxby (Vice Chair), Cllr J Shackleton (Chairman),
Cllr R Walker, Cllr K Wilkie
RFO Mrs G Robinson

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

NOTICE OF THE MEETING

RESOLVED: That Public Notice of the meeting had been given in accordance with Schedule 12, para 10(2) of the Local Government Act 1972 **F765/014**

APOLOGIES

It was noted that no apologies had been received from Cllr J Meek. It was

RESOLVED: That the above information be noted. **F766/014**

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman reminded members of the need to consider whether they needed to declare a disclosable pecuniary interest (DPI) or personal interest as detailed in Appendix A and Appendix B of the Town Council's Code of Conduct.

Cllr John Haxby declared a personal interest in any future items referring to the Town Council's Independent Financial Advisor due to him being his own personal financial advisor.

No further declarations of interest were declared in items on the agenda at this point but the Chairman informed Members that they could make a declaration of interest at any point during the meeting. It was

RESOLVED: That Cllr J Haxby's personal declaration of interest be noted. **F767/014**

REVIEW OF INVESTMENT BOND

Portfolio Valuation

Members had previously been circulated with a portfolio valuation as at 30 September 2014 for consideration and it was noted that there had been a very slight decrease in the overall portfolio valuation since the previous quarter and that the property fund was still suspended. After discussion it was

RESOLVED: That the Investment Bond valuation report as at 30 September 2014 be accepted. **F768/014**

INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT – SECOND QUARTER 2014/2015

Members had previously been circulated with a copy of the Internal Audit Report for the Second Quarter 2014/2015. The Internal Auditor had listed the financial areas which he had given his attention to in the first quarter and commented on minor matters including, the minutes of meetings being signed by Chair officials in a timely manner; the implementation of disabled access to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act; updated software for cemetery records requiring additional staff time and the trail of debtors records being addressed by the RFO on the Sage software reporting system. Members noted the comments highlighted by the Internal Auditor and confirmed these would be addressed by the RFO and Chair officials. There were no other matters of concern identified in the Internal Auditor's Second Quarter report. It was

RESOLVED: That a recommendation be made to full council that the Internal Audit Report for the Second Quarter 2014/2015 be accepted. **F769/014**

SECOND QUARTER BUDGET REPORT 2014/2015

Members had previously been circulated with a copy of the Second Quarter Budget Report for 2014/2015 and this was analysed by Members. The RFO gave an explanation to members in relation to actual income and expenditure which was compared with the planned budget and the projected forecast and she stated that this would be closely monitored by herself together with Members as the financial year progressed. The RFO stated that current income and expenditure was in line with the planned budget and at present there were no concerns that the current budget would be overspent. It was

RESOLVED: That a recommendation be made to full council that the Second Quarter Budget Report 2014/2015 be accepted. **F770/014**

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SCARBOROUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Model Agreement Estimates 2015/2016

Members had previously been circulated with a letter and copy of Model Agreement Estimates for 2015/2016 which had been received from Scarborough Borough Council for acceptance. It was noted that the estimates had been index-linked in line with UK RPI as at 1 September 2014 and therefore the increase for 2015/2016 would be 2.3%. It was

RESOLVED: That the Model Agreement Estimates for 2015/2016 be accepted and the increase of 2.3% from Scarborough Borough Council be welcomed. **F771/014**

Discretionary Payment to Parish Councils

Members had previously been circulated with a letter informing the Town Council that the Borough Council due to their current budget proposals were not intending to make payment of discretionary non-ringfenced grants to Town and Parish Councils in the Borough. The RFO informed members that this decision had yet to be agreed by members of Scarborough Borough Council but could possibly mean that the discretionary grant awarded to the Town Council of £7,120 was likely to be withdrawn. The RFO stated that an overall sum of £80,320 was paid to all Town and Parish Councils in the Borough and members requested if this amount was not paid what would the money be spent on by the Borough Council and requested that this be included in a letter of objection to the Borough's proposed decision. After discussion it was

RESOLVED: That the RFO be instructed to send a letter to the Borough Council to strongly object against the withdrawal of the Discretionary grant payment with a copy being sent to all Borough Ward Councillors representing Filey to support the discretionary grant of £7,120 being continued to be paid to the Town Council. **F772/014**

Parish Council Precepts 2015/2016

Members had previously been circulated with a letter detailing the required dates for the Parish Precept Demand for 2015/2015 and that the precept calculator would not be made available until the last two weeks of November 2014. Members noted that this information would be required when forecasting the council's budget for 2015/2016. It was

RESOLVED: That the above information be noted.

F773/014

FIXED TERM DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS

The RFO informed members that the 12 month Fixed Term Deposit Accounts with Lloyds Bank and Santander would shortly be coming to maturity and she requested if a similar rate of interest could be secured that these be rolled over or extended for a further 12 months. The RFO had made enquiries with Yorkshire Bank regarding the Council's Fixed Term Deposit due to the recent announcement by the National Bank of Australia to sell off the UK Yorkshire Bank but no further information could be supplied. The RFO expressed concern that the Council held a significant amount of cash investment with Yorkshire Bank and needed to spread the risk. The RFO stated that she would contact the Public Sector Deposit Fund representative and arrange a day time meeting with him as this fund may be a possibility for future cash investment and she would also contact other banks which met the criteria outlined in the Council's Investment Strategy. It was

RESOLVED: That the Fixed Term Deposit Accounts currently held with Lloyds Bank (£100K) and Santander Bank (£100K) be extended for a further 12 months upon maturity if a similar rate of interest could be secured by the RFO. **F774/014**

RESOLVED: That the RFO be requested to contact other banks in line with the criteria outlined in the Council's Investment Strategy for members consideration. **F775/014**

COUNCIL OFFICES DISABLED ACCESS

Members of the Finance & General Purposes Committee were requested to consider the following recommendation from the Property Committee:

Minute No 763/014

That a recommendation be made to the Finance & General purposes Committee to consider the cost of appointing an Architect to draw up plans for the Disabled Lift Access project.

The RFO stated that the Property Committee had spent several months considering the various options for a replacement disabled lift since the existing lift had been declared unfit for purpose and had agreed a preferred option to install a platform lift to the rear of the building which would require building a housing and extending the rear door by building out into the rear car park at an approximate overall cost of £30K.

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COUNCIL OFFICES DISABLED ACCESS continued

Members considered the above recommendation and recognised that the cost of appointing an Architect and submitting a planning application would be approximately £2K but should the planning application not be approved this funding would pose a risk to the council. Members considered the cost of the overall project alongside other council financial priorities and also whether the installation of a platform lift against a similar existing stair lift was a good use of public funding. After discussion and upon being put to the vote, 3 votes against and 2 votes for the Property Committee's recommendation it was

RESOLVED: That a recommendation be made to full council that for the reasons detailed above the Members of the Finance & General Purposes Committee could not support the Property Committee's recommendation to appoint an Architect for the proposed Disabled Lift Access project for the Council Offices.

F776/014

RESOLVED: That a recommendation be made to full council by the Members of the Finance & General Purposes Committee that due to the significant overall capital cost of the proposed Disabled Access Project this item be placed on the agenda for the full council meeting to be held on 12 November 2014 with all other options and costs being considered by the full council.

F777/014

Under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, members considered that none of the above decisions would impact on crime and disorder.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

Councillor J Shackleton
Chairman
Finance & General Purposes Committee