

Stonehouse Town Council



MINUTES (subject to agreement at the next Committee meeting) **OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE & STRATEGY COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 12 MAY** **2014 AT 7PM IN THE TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, STONEHOUSE**

Present:

Councillors Theresa Watt (Convenor of Committee)
 Chris Brine (Chairman Town Council)
 Simon Lewis (Vice Chairman Town Council)
 Pam Swain
 Vicky Redding

Also Present: Town Clerk Gill Jennings
 3 members of the public

K1/115 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Apologies were accepted from Councillor Paul Stephens who had commitments with Ofsted

K1/116 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are reminded of their obligation within the requirements of the Adopted Model Code of Conduct to declare any personal or disclosable pecuniary interests where applicable.

None declared

K1/117 ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

(Maximum of 15 minutes – Any member of the public may speak only once in respect of any business itemised on the Agenda for a maximum of 5 minutes)

John Callinan raised a question regarding Declarations of Interest with regard to investment in the Cooperative Bank. He would put this in writing.

Trevor Baker asked whether purchase of further links of the Mayoral Chain could wait until a new Mayor appointed.

K1/118 TO FORMALLY APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7TH APRIL 2014

The Minutes were approved as a correct record.

K1/119 TO CONSIDER CHANGES TO THE TOWN HALL TO INCREASE HIRE AND SERVICES

Minutes of a Working Group meeting held on 16th April are enclosed. A further meeting is scheduled for the 7th May.

The Building Facilities Working Group had met with office designers to discuss a new layout of the hall and plans would be produced for discussion with the Committee in due course.

K1/120 FINANCE

1. To check expenditure/receipts totals against budget headings for April

Expenditure £ 5578.19 Receipts £ 1156.26 were agreed and checked against budget headings.

K1/120 Finance (continued)

2. To agree payments to date (May)

Payments to date in May £101761.23 were agreed as correct.

3. To consider a grant application from Cotswold Canals Knowledge for £150 towards mural costs.

The Committee felt there was insufficient information to agree the grant at this stage.

K1/121 S106 MONIES

The Clerk will brief the meeting

Committee members were given a report of discussions with Stroud District Council's Head of Planning. Unless a Section 106 specifically states that the sum should be spent in a particular parish or neighbourhood, it would be for the "receiving department" in this case Leisure Services, to identify appropriate projects to fund. The decision on how funds are allocated is reserved to the District Council.

There is no legal impediment to the District Council using all or any of the funds in any of its parishes, but will ask, where appropriate, the opinion of the local parish/parishes as to how best it could be allocated. In a case such as this it would be possible for SDC to have used the sum for works to a strategic play and recreation facility such as Stratford Park as it would be to any other area.

The Committee agreed that the Town Council had been asked for an opinion as a matter of courtesy and therefore there was no decision to be taken by the Town Council in respect of the £25000 payment to Cainscross PC.

K1/122 PRESS & SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Requests from the press or other media for an oral or written comment or statement from the Council, its Councillors or staff shall be handled in accordance with the Council's policy in respect of dealing with the press and/or other media – The Committee to devise the necessary Policy.

Councillor Lewis advised that a policy existed and would be reviewed by the Policy Working Group. The Committee felt the need to revisit media and communication at the earliest opportunity.

K1/123 2013-14 ACCOUNTS

To agree the explanation of significant variances

The Committee agreed the explanation of significant variances (Section 4 of the annual accounts)

K1/124 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

23 June 2014
