



Skipton Town Council

16/81

Finance and Policy Committee Thursday 15 December 2016 at 6.30pm

Present: Cllrs: C J Harbron (Chairman), R G Heseltine, P H Whitaker, J W Dawson, A F Hickman, A Rankine

Also present: Cllr J Kerr

Officers: Dave Parker (Chief Officer) and Jill Peacock (Resources Manager)

1. To accept representations from the Public between 6.30 pm and 6.45 pm.

None.

2. To accept apologies for absence.

Cllrs: K McIntyre – Ill
C Dow – Work Commitments

3. To record declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in items on the agenda.

None.

4. To consider the recommendations of the Chief Officer relating to requests for dispensations to Members on items requiring a declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests.

None.

5. To note the minutes from the previous meeting held on 20 October 2016.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes from the Finance and Policy Committee meeting held on 20 October 2016 as a true and accurate record of what transpired at that meeting.

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6. To report information arising from the minutes of items not on the agenda from members and the Chief Officer.

Item 1 - Councillor R G Heseltine confirmed that he had received a letter from a junior officer at Craven District Council, which was inconclusive and offered no apology. The lift has still not been available on occasions.

7. To consider matters relating to the potential planning gain arising from the proposed redevelopment of Firth Mill, Skipton.

Craven District Council's Sports Development Officer, Bruce Dinsmore was present for this item to explain the policy of planning gain and discuss the proposals.

Members **RESOLVED** to ask Candelisa Ltd to develop a detailed scheme, for subsequent approval by the Town Council, comprising of:

The installation of a children's play area, in two phases, at Middletown Recreation Ground.

The widening, to 2.5 metres, of the existing path from the Pinhaw Road entrance and up to and just beyond the proposed play area – to facilitate vehicle access to Middletown Allotments.

The re-routing, alongside the new vehicle access, of the footpath from Pinhaw Road – as far as the new play area.

The restoration of the existing footpath from the new play area up to the Upper Sackville Street entrance to the recreation ground.

8. To consider a policy matter relating to the maintenance of the trees in the churchyard at Christ Church, Skipton, and their impact on a neighbouring property.

Members **RESOLVED** not to fund the cost of an arboricultural survey and that the Chief Officer should contact the Diocese and the proprietors of the neighbouring property to inform them of this decision. The Council would, however be prepared to engage a specialist if the associated costs were met.

9. To consider whether the Council should overspend on its allotments budget for 2016 – 2017 to undertake urgent security measures at Middletown Allotments.

Members **RESOLVED** that as the whole length of fencing needed to be replaced this should be included in the proposals for the 2017-2018 budget.

10. To note the Council's revenue budget position at 30 November 2016.

Members accepted and **NOTED** the current position of the Council's revenue budget, as at 30 November 2016.

11. To receive an update on progress with the ongoing Staffing Review and to consider holding an additional meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee on Thursday 12 January 2017.

Members received a verbal update on the progress of the ongoing Staffing Review. The Chief Officer is meeting with the HR representative on the 3 January 2017 prior to a meeting of the Staffing Working Group meeting on 5 January 2017 when draft proposals would be available.

Councillors in attendance who are members of the working group requested sight of all relevant documentation as they would like to contribute fully with the review.

Members also agreed to an additional meeting of the committee on Thursday 12 January 2017, starting at 6.30pm and to be preceded by a meeting of the Public Services committee.

12. To consider the office administration aspects of the Council's budget for 2017/2018.

Members **RESOLVED** to accept the proposals for the 2017-2018 administration budget, but requested that no changes are made to the Mayoral Allowance. A reduction of £500 had been suggested.

13. To receive notification of matters that members would like including on a future agenda.

None.

The meeting closed at 8.01 pm.