



Skipton Town Council

16/41

Finance and Policy Committee Thursday 18 August 2016 at 7pm

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

Also present: Cllr J Kerr

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

1. To accept representations from the Public between 7.00 pm and 7.15 pm.

None.

2. To accept apologies for absence.

Cllrs: A Rankine, C Dow

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

Councillor A F Hickman declared a non pecuniary interest on item 10 as he utilises volunteers from the Centre.

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 16 June 2016.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes from the Finance and Policy Committee meeting held on 16 June 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.

None.

7. To note the Council's Revenue Budget position as at 31 July 2016.

Members accepted and **NOTED** the current position of the Council's revenue budget, as at 31 July 2016.

8. To receive an update regarding the proposed sale of Council land at North Parade, Skipton.

Members **NOTED** the current situation regarding the potential sale of the Council land. Legal advice has been sought to clarify the terms of the contract between the Council and Keyhaven Homes. It appears that the contract does not commit the buyer to completing the purchase and the contract will automatically terminate if the buyer fails to contact the Town Council before the effective date. Every effort is being made at this time to contact Keyhaven Homes to clarify the situation.

9. To receive an update on proposed building and decorating works at Skipton Town Hall.

Members **NOTED** the planned works for the Town Hall together with the Chief Officers verbal update given at the meeting.

It is hoped that following the completion of the works there will be full access to the Town Council Offices by both lift and stairway. As this has not always been the case Councillors requested that the Chief Officer approach the District Council with a view to a refund of Service Charges.

The Chief Officer noted that approaches were already planned in connection with the potential rebates on rent and service charges covering the period of work.

Councillors C Harbron, R G Heseltine and J W Dawson are to make representations to the District Council concerning the removal of the paintings hanging on the main staircase leading up to the Town Council Offices.

10. To consider a request for financial support from the Craven Volunteer Centre.

Members considered the request from the Craven Volunteer Centre and **RESOLVED** not to approve financial support at this time. A decision whether or not to re-introduce grant funding should be made at budget setting time rather than dealing with applications on an ad-hoc basis.

11. To consider matters relating to Council Committee meetings.

Members considered the recommendations made by the Audit and Scrutiny Committee and supported the decisions to:

Amend the start times of Council Committee meetings to 6 pm or 6.30pm dependent on what time suited the majority of the Councillors best.

Amend the ordering of Committee agendas to facilitate a reduced attendance by senior officers.

Delete the second sentence of Standing Order 15b (vi) to facilitate all Town Councilors in attendance at Committee meetings being able to remain in the meeting during the discussion of confidential matters even when they do not stand on that committee.

Members also agreed, in principle, that the introduction of a system of substitute members for Council Committee meetings should be investigated further.

12. To consider matters relating to Skipton Market.

The Committee **RESOLVED** that the Council should look to separate the financial accounting systems associated with Skipton Market from the Council's main financial systems.

Members **NOTED** the current situation regarding the stall scheme in the area of the market outside of Rackhams, which comes to an end on 31 August 2016.

13. To receive an update on the Council's Staffing Review.

The Chief Officer reported that there was nothing to add since the report given to Councilors at last week's Full Council meeting. He is awaiting a reply from one Councilor before a date can be set for a meeting of the Staffing Working Group.

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

None.

The meeting closed at 8.14 pm.