



Skipton Town Council

Finance and Policy Committee Thursday 20 August 2015 at 7pm

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

Officers: Dave Parker (Chief Officer) and Jill Peacock (Administration and Finance Officer)

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

Chris Nash from the Dales and Bowland Community Interest Company attended to speak with Members about contributing to a new Saturday bus service to run between Skipton and Harrogate.

Members agreed to bring forward agenda item 8

2. To accept apologies for absence.

None.

3. To record declarations of pecuniary and non pecuniary interests 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 18 June 2015.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes from the Finance and Policy Committee meeting held on 18 June 2015 as a true and accurate record of what transpired at that meeting.

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

None.

8. To consider a further approach for financial support for the provision of local bus services.

Members listened to the presentation given by Mr Nash and considered the request for financial support in respect of the provision of a Saturday bus service between Skipton, Harrogate and York. The original proposal did not include York, but this route would provide more opportunities to generate funding. Carleton and Embsay Parish Councils have already been approached. Embsay Parish Council has rejected the application and Carleton Parish Council will be considering it next week.

Members questioned Mr Nash further and then discussed the matter fully.

Members **RESOLVED** that in the absence of a fully costed business study the request for financial support by the Dales and Bowland Community Interest Company was not something the Town Council could support.

7. To note the Council's Revenue Budget position as at 31 July 2015.

Members accepted and **NOTED** the current position of the Council's revenue budget, as at 31 July 2015.

9. To consider matters relating to the redemption of 3.5% War Stock held by the former Skipton Urban District Council.

Members **NOTED** the background information relating to the successor Authority and successor Parish status of both Craven District Council and Skipton Town Council.

Members **APPROVED** the transfer of the proceeds of the 3.5% War Stock to Craven District Council, in the sum of £2,961.69 with a request that the proceeds should be ring-fenced to being 'spent' in Skipton.

10. To consider changes to the Council's procedures for the issuing of Allotment Tenancy Agreements and to confirm amendments to the Agreement narrative.

Members agreed to **RATIFY** the proposed changes to the Allotment Tenancy Agreement.

11. To consider the Council's policy relating to unauthorised access routes created onto Town Council land.

Members **RESOLVED** to follow the recommendation of the Solicitors to write to the occupiers of 158 Moorview Way to reinstate the fence to a satisfactory condition within a reasonably short timescale, failing which further steps will have to be considered by the Council to reinstate and seek to recover the costs of doing so from the householder.

Members further **RESOLVED** to write to any other householders with private accesses to Town Council Recreation Grounds to clarify the position of the Council owning the fencing and to prevent any householders claiming a prescriptive right to access which has been in existence for a period of 20 years or more.

12. To consider whether the potential employment of Apprentices should be considered as part of the ongoing review of the Council's Staffing Structure.

Members **RESOLVED** that the Chief Officer should investigate the opportunity to include apprenticeship schemes within the review of the Council's Staffing Structure and ongoing administrative requirements.

13. To receive an update from the Chief Officer and to consider any matters relating to the lease for the use of the office premises at Skipton Town Hall.

The Chief Officer reported that things are now progressing and the lease should be ready for signing at the next meeting of the Full Council.

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

Devolution proposals.

The meeting closed at 8 pm.