

THRAPSTON TOWN COUNCIL

Mayor: Cllr. Val Carter

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120-012/013

FINANCE AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held on 13 November 2012

Present: Cllr. P Baden, Cllr. V Carter, Cllr. K Fouhy, Cllr. P Pike,
Cllr. R Jakeman, Cllr. A Winter

In attendance: Jeanne Pike, Clerk

01 Apologies:

Cllr. S Haynes tendered her apologies which were accepted. Members wished Cllr. Haynes a swift recovery.

02 Declaration of Interest in items on the agenda:

None but it was noted that a dispensation for Councillors to decide the Precept may be necessary and this Committee will make a recommendation to Full Council that will not be ratified until the position is clear. **Noted**

03 Public Participation:

There were no members of the public present.

04 October Finance Statement:

The Clerk presented the October Finance Statement

Proposal: That the finance statement for October 2012 be accepted and passed to Full Council for ratification and the approvals passed for payment, proposed by Cllr. K Fouhy and seconded by Cllr. R Jakeman with **all in favour**

Pass to Full Council for ratification

The collection from the Firework Display amounted to £1,100 and members agreed that £550 would be sent to Northamptonshire and Warwickshire Air Ambulance with the rest split between Alzheimer's, Stroke Association, St. John and CHAT.

All in favour Pass to Full Council for ratification.

05 Groundsman's Contract:

There were no extra matters this month.

06 Plaza Equipment:

The Plaza Management Committee has asked if a chair trolley can be purchased to enable chairs to be moved safely within the Plaza Hall area. Cost of a suitable trolley would be £52. Cllr. A Winter proposed that one be purchased and when tested the purchase of another be considered, seconded by Cllr. R Jakeman with **all in favour**. **Action Clerk** No cost had been submitted for the Plaza advert to be inserted in Jigsaw but members felt that the suggested advert was slightly too wordy and that an interior view of the Plaza may be more beneficial. **Clerk to pass information to V Davy.**

07 Budget 2013/2014:

The Budget and resulting Precept demand needs to be considered and in place for the end of 2012. Information has been issued that the principal councils may be capped at 2% and this MAY spill over into the local council tier. Members were mindful that the Precept increase should be kept as low as possible to help residents in this economic climate. Cllr. P Pike proposed that a 3% increase be applied for 2013/2014 subject to the publication of the Draft Report (due Early December 2012) when local councils may be required to be capped at 2%, seconded by Cllr. R Jakeman with one for, two against and one abstention; **the bulk of the work on the Budget and a decision subject to a possible change to be made at November Full Council with an agreement to revisit in December if necessary. All in favour Pass to Full Council**

08 Cemetery Fees 2013/2014:

The cemetery is run as a facility for local people and as such it is not necessary to make a vast profit. Equally it is a facility that has to pay its way and members agreed that the costs should be increased to allow on-going improvements and maintenance. A figure of 3-5% was suggested and the Clerk was asked to compare costs with other town councils in the area and bring to the next Cemetery meeting. **Action Clerk**

09 Funding of proposed Play Equipment:

The Youth Committee has identified a need for new equipment for the over 10's and hope to purchase this for siting in the Peace Park. The Committee has asked if a substantial amount of the cost could be provided from the off-site facility money held in reserve. Cllr. J Jakeman proposed that a maximum sum of £20,000 be earmarked for this project, seconded by Cllr. K Fouhy with **all in favour**. LG(Misc Prov)Act 1976, s19 **Pass to Full Council for ratification.**

10 Clerk's Report:

- 1) There has been no reply from letters sent to the banks requesting a presence in Thrapston or for longer hours in the case of NatWest. The ombudsman was not contacted as the issue is not one that would fall into his/her remit.
- 2) No further information has been received on the toilet contract but a quote of £667.45 for the windows to be changed **has** been received from Thrapston Glass and Glazing. This issue will be **on the next Agenda.**
- 3) Scottish Widows has sent notification that the interest rate on the Council deposit of £150,000 will change from 1.85% to 1.35% on 14 January 2013.

11 Items for Future Agendas:

Increase of Cemetery fees – Cemetery Committee 28 November 2012

There being no other relevant business the meeting closed at 8.40pm.

13/11/12/F&S/jgp