

# THRAPSTON TOWN COUNCIL

Mayor: Cllr. Val Carter

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132-012/013

## FINANCE AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE

### Minutes of meeting held on 11 December 2012

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

**In attendance:** Jeanne Pike, Clerk

**01 Apologies:**

There were no apologies.

**02 Declaration of Interest in items on the agenda:**

Each member present declared an interest in item 6. **Noted**

**03 Public Participation:**

There were no members of the public present.

**04 November Finance Statement:**

The Clerk presented the November Finance Statement

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

**Pass to Full Council for ratification**

**05 Groundsman's Contract:**

The only matter to be considered was the cost for the fencing around the Christmas tree that the Groundsman had built, supplied and erected to ensure there is a barrier between the tree and the public to conform to Health and Safety guidelines.

Members agreed that the fence was well made and was keeping with the tree.

**06 Budget 2013/2014:**

The Precept request has been received and has to be returned by 18 January 2013. The expected announcement on capping or not for Parish Councils has been delayed until 19 December. Information has been received from ENC that any services they provide will be increased by 12% from April 2013.

Members were reluctant to increase the Precept but it was noted that to freeze it would mean a shortfall to be taken from reserves and this would be a backward step that could cause problems in future years. Together with the expected increase in services and utilities Cllr. S Haynes proposed that the Precept be increased by 2% this was seconded by Cllr. R Jakeman with four in favour and three against.

**Pass to Full Council for ratification**

**07 Section 106 - Persimmon:**

Carl Webb from Persimmon has been unable to gather together the information required for further discussion on Persimmon's outstanding Section 106 Agreements therefore this matter will be deferred to **February PLA/F & S.**

**08 Replacement glass in public conveniences:**

A quote has been received for replacement glass in the public conveniences in Oundle Road. At present the windows have an acrylic pane in each of them which is badly stained and covered in graffiti. Due to the nature of the material cleaning and scraping is not possible. Toughened glass has been recommended and the quote is for £667.45 plus VAT.

Cllr. S Haynes proposed that the quote be accepted and the present material be replaced with Stipolite 6mm toughened glass as recommended, seconded by Cllr. K Fouhy with five for and two against. **Clerk to contact the Contractor**

**09 Cosy Nook – car parking:**

Cllr. Baden explained that the land in question at Cosy Nook belongs to ENC who bought it several years ago. They are now selling off some assets and Cllr. Read is endeavouring to negotiate obtaining the land for car parking, possibly through the 'new homes bonus scheme'; this would hopefully provide around 30 spaces.

Cllr. Baden will keep members informed of progress as there may be financial implications.

**10 Clerk's Report:**

1) The plan submitted for the Skate Park has been withdrawn as it is not necessary therefore the £340 will be returned.

2) A letter from Asperger's to thank the Council for the donation from the fireworks.

3) A new booklet is planned for Thrapston to be delivered to each house. The Council has been asked if they wish to advertise. The Clerk will respond

4) Quickbooks is offering an upgrade with a 20% savings which is felt not necessary at this time.

5) The County Council has issued its Draft Revenue budget 2013-14, consultation can be found on [www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/budget13-14](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/budget13-14)

**11 Items for Future Agendas:**

There being no other relevant business the meeting closed at 8.20pm.

12/12/12/F&S/jgp