

# THRAPSTON TOWN COUNCIL

Mayor: Cllr. Eddie Sewell

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303-011/012

## FINANCE AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE

### Minutes of meeting held on 11 April 2012

**Present:** Cllr. E Franklin, Cllr. E Sewell (ex-officio), Cllr. K Fouhy and Cllr. R Jakeman

**In attendance:** Jeanne Pike, Clerk

**01 Apologies:**

Cllr. A Winter and Cllr. P Baden tendered their apologies which were accepted.

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

Cllr. K Fouhy declared an interest in item 4 (expenditure). **Noted**

**03. Public Participation:**

There were no members of the public present.

**04. March Finance Statement:**

The Clerk presented the March Finance Statement  
Proposal: That the finance statement for March 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. K Fouhy with **all in favour**  
**Pass to Full Council for ratification**

**05. Groundsman's Contract:**

The new contract is now in force and already three re-opening of graves has been booked for April. This will bring an extra cost which is passed on to the funeral director.

**06. Draft Code of Conduct:**

East Northamptonshire Council has issued a Draft Code of Conduct for their members with a recommendation that, with as little variation as possible, the towns and parishes adopt the same code. Cllr. E Franklin proposed that subject to discussion on any further changes the Code be adjusted to suit Thrapston Town Council and adopted accordingly. **Pass to May Full Council**

**07 End of Year Figures 2011/2012:**

The Clerk presented the Budget v Actual for 2011/2012 which showed that the Council had kept within the Budget for the year and the Reserves were earmarked to be used during 2012/2013.

The Annual Return has not yet been prepared but the Bank Reconciliation was presented and accepted.

**08 Domain Names:**

Neil Busby has asked members to consider their options on retaining the domain names they pay for in connection with the Community Web Site. The cost is currently £54 per quarter and any users of these sites are directed to the new web site. Members felt it sensible to ask Neil's advice and to pass the matter to the web site working party for their recommendation. **Pass to Web Site Working Party**

**09 Signs:**

Following a meeting with a representative from WPS Insurance for Town Councils members had been made aware of the need to provide signs in the Council owned play areas to give contact information and to specify age limits for the play equipment (where necessary). Members agreed the best way of deciding where this was needed was to ask the councillors carrying out the ground audit to report back where signs would be required. **Action PLA members**

The sign under the arch in the cemetery has been removed to accommodate the boards for the plaques. This has made the main sign out of date and there is now a need for a new sign to be crafted. Cllr. Franklin proposed that a new sign should be made and erected as soon as possible, Clerk to contact Pendred. **Action Clerk**

**10 Charitable Trust – Public Conveniences:**

Lynne Rothwell, ENC Solicitor has now sent a copy of a draft document already sent to Oundle TC concerning the possibility of running the public toilets as a Charitable Trust. Cllr. Franklin had given this matter some research and felt there was merit in this and members agreed to consider it further asking to meet with Lynne to discuss the matter. Clerk to arrange a meeting. **Action Clerk**

**11 Clerk's Report:**

- 1) Margaret Jernigan is unable to attend the ATM to receive her award and has nominated Joyce White to attend in her place.
- 2) Northants CALC has sent their training calendar for April to July 2012. They also offer a 'Whole Council Development' course which would be carried out at the Council's premises. This would be a useful tool for all councillors and could be carried out around June/July 2012.

**12 Items for Future Agendas:**

**Annual Town Meeting at the Plaza Tuesday 17 April 2012 commencing at 6.30 pm.**

There being no other relevant business the meeting closed at 8.10 pm.

11/04/12/F&S/jgp