

# THRAPSTON TOWN COUNCIL

Mayor: Cllr. Eddie Sewell

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326-011/012

## FINANCE AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE

### Minutes of meeting held on 08 May 2012

**Present:** Cllr. E Franklin, Cllr. E Sewell (ex-officio), Cllr. K Fouhy, Cllr. P Pike, Cllr. A Winter. Cllr. P Baden and Cllr. R Jakeman

**In attendance:** Jeanne Pike, Clerk

Cllr. Franklin welcomed Cllr. Pike to his first F&S meeting.

**01 Apologies:**

There were no apologies

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

Cllr. E Sewell declared an interest in item 4 (expenditure). **Noted**

**03. Public Participation:**

There were no members of the public present.

**04. April Finance Statement:**

The Clerk presented the April Finance Statement

Proposal: That the finance statement for April 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 BMX track is due for snagging to take place soon and a maintenance contract needs to be in place after this has happened. A recent quote showed £1,200 per visit, with two visits per year, so Howard Bosworth has been asked to provide a quote and if successful this would impact on his contract .

**06. Annual Return:**

The Annual Return is ready to be sent to BDO for the external audit. (See appendix one) and the Annual Internal Audit was conducted recently with the comment returned that the Town Council books were exemplary maintained with a clear audit trail throughout. This will now be passed to Full Council for approval. **Pass to Full Council**  
 It was noted that the Auditor has suggested that the Council consider the level of deposit currently held at one bank alone as the Financial Services compensation Scheme is restricted to £85,000. Members felt this to be a valid point and agreed that the matter should be on the next F&S Agenda. **Pass to June F&S**  
 Cllr. Fouhy agreed to audit the April finance so that the figures are in place and approved for the start of the new council year. **Action Cllr. Fouhy**

**07 Financial Regulations:**

The Financial Regulations that the Town Council adhere to have to be reviewed annually. Members considered the present regulations and agreed that they were in accordance with government legislation and were strong enough to ensure safe practices within the Government framework; Cllr. P Baden proposed that they be accepted for the coming year, seconded by Cllr. A Winter with **all in favour**.

**08 Equality Policy:**

Following discussion on the Equality Policy for the Town Council Cllr. Sewell and Cllr. Franklin have read the Equality Act and both felt that with sensible application when necessary the present statement/policy was a fair reflection of the Council's position. Acceptance proposed by Cllr. P Baden and seconded by Cllr. R Jakeman with **all in favour**.

**09 Review of Council's Policies and Terms of Reference:****Documents reviewed:**

- Terms of Reference for F&S – the present ones were agreed subject to a review of T.E.R.G after the new committees are set in June.
- Personnel, Appeals and Appointment were considered although it was noted that Personnel reports directly to Full Council. It was agreed to recommend to Full Council that both Appeals and Appointments cease to exist as committees but rather they should come under the remit of Personnel who would appoint as necessary and would take responsibility for setting up an appeals panel from all councillors if required., proposed by Cllr. E Franklin and seconded by Cllr. K Fouhy with **all in favour**.
- Asset Register – Agreed as seen.
- Complaints Procedure – agreed as previously
- FOI & Data Protection – agreed as seen
- Dealing with the Media procedure – agreed as Standing orders
- Arrangements with other Local Authorities – agreed as at present

All the above were proposed by Cllr. P Baden and seconded by Cllr. R Jakeman with **all in favour**.

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- WPS and Zurich have both quoted for the Council's insurance and it was felt that WPS had submitted a very favourable quote although slightly more expensive than Zurich. However as the quotes were not completely 'like for like' it was agreed to give Zurich the opportunity to submit a quote for those items on the WPS quote but not shown on theirs. **Action Clerk**  
**Pass to May Full Council for final decision**

#### 10 Charitable Trust – Public Conveniences:

Although members were of the opinion that the suggestion to make the public conveniences in Thrapston a charitable Trust was the way forward they did not understand the process needed to effect this change and a request for Lynne Rothwell, solicitor at East Northamptonshire Council, to meet with members to explain matters had so far brought no response. Neil Pritchard should now be approached to ask his assistance. **Action Clerk**

#### 11 Mayor's Consort – Badge of Office:

Vaughton's has quoted a maximum of £100 to supply a badge of office to be worn by the consort on official civic occasions. Cost was quoted at around £120 and Cllr. A Winter proposed that this be purchased, seconded by Cllr. P Baden with six in agreement and one abstention allowing the item to be purchased. **Action Clerk**  
It was noted and agreed that the Mayoral chain should be refurbished as soon as possible. **Action Clerk**

#### 12 Diamond Jubilee Finance:

The Nene Valley Swimming Club has requested support for their Diamond Jubilee Gala due to be held on 01 July 2012. They estimate the cost required at £500. Cllr. P Baden proposed that £250 be given to the Swimming Club from the Diamond Jubilee budget, to help with these costs, seconded by Cllr. K Fouhy with **all in favour**. The amount spent so far has been for the funfairs - £1,050 and further costs of £550 are expected for the bouncy castle and the toilets.

#### 13 Clerk's Report:

- 1) The Beacon Lighting time for Thrapston is set at 10.15 pm.
- 2) Rosguill have responded to a request for information and have informed the Council that they are hoping to change the planning application for the High Street/Oundle Road site but have not yet heard from the planners. They will be in touch once the situation has been clarified.
- 3) The Communications Manager from the Community Enhancement Gang has written to thank the Council for their input and is collating the information received. They will confirm when they plan to do the work in the area.
- 4) A response to a request for a boundary review for Thrapston has informed the Council that the Authority are unable to review Thrapston Town Council's arrangements at this time.
- 5) Thrapston Heritage have been given permission to use three tables from the office for the Charter Fair Day.

#### 14 Items for Future Agendas:

There were no items for future agendas.  
There being no other relevant business the meeting closed at 8.35 pm.  
08/05/12/F&S/jgp