

Mayor: Cllr. Val Carter

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054-012/013

FINANCE AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held on 14 August 2012

Present: Cllr. V Carter (ex-officio), Cllr. K Fouhy, Cllr. S Haynes, Cllr. P Pike, Cllr. R Jakeman, Cllr. A Winter

In attendance: Jeanne Pike, Clerk

Part time: Neil Busby

01 Apologies:

Cllr. P Baden tendered his apologies which were accepted.

02 Declaration of Interest in items on the agenda:

Cllr. V Carter and Cllr. P Pike declared an interest in item 5 (payments) **Noted**

03 Public Participation:

There were no members of the public present.

04 Domain names:

Neil Busby outlined the present situation with domain names that the Council currently pay for: www.thrapstonscouncil.co.uk/com/org.uk and www.thrapstonplaza.co.uk and www.thrapstonscouncilarchives.co.uk. Neil explained that the archive domain was not needed and he would provide a link to the archives to replace this. Currently the Council pay approximately £200 per year for these domains and the options are to a) get rid of the names – which could mean a problem for anyone trying to find the website or a cheaper option b) transfer the names to a platform on the new website which will cost around £30 per year. Cllr. R Jakeman proposed that the Council use option b seconded by Cllr. A Winter with all in favour; Deputy Clerk to contact website provider. **Action Deputy Clerk**

The website provider should also contact Google with a request that Google alert surfers to the new site.

05 July Finance Statement:

The Clerk presented the July Finance Statement

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

Pass to Full Council for ratification

A quote from Vaughton's has priced a velvet collar for the mayoral chain at £165 and a fitted carry case at £265. Members agreed that both these items were necessary to upgrade the Chain and the acceptance was proposed by Cllr. R Jakeman and seconded by Cllr. P Pike with **all in favour**.

06 Groundsman's Contract:

The recent RoSPA report has outlined several medium risk issues that need addressing and inevitably there will be a cost involved. Mr Bosworth will report back to the Clerk when he has assessed the situation.

A new board to record the names of the Mayors is required and it is hoped that a piece of the 'elephant' tree felled last year will be useable after being treated. Again there will be a cost but the exact amount is unknown at present.

07 New Bank Account:

The clerk reported that the new account with Scottish Widows was now open and £150,000 transferred into the account.

Another account would be sought to ensure reserves were safely held in the public interest.

08 Grant Funding:

- CHAT sent a request for funding recently but a misunderstanding meant that this was not considered in the recent round of funding requests last month. After discussion members agreed that CHAT should be asked to supply figures for the number of young people they help in Thrapston together with details of where they operate. This can then be considered at the September F&S.
Action Clerk
- The Plaza Trust recently paid for a new floor on the stage but omitted to take into account the extra cost of the VAT. They asked if the Council would be prepared to fund an amount to assist with the cost of the floor which was greater than expected. Cllr. S Haynes proposed that an amount of £750 be given towards payment of the new stage flooring, seconded by Cllr. A Winter with **all in favour**.

09 Photocopier:

Walters has quoted for a new photocopying machine as the present contract has expired and the photocopier is breaking down more frequently than in the past.

The new copier would be much more expensive to hire but far less expensive to run so would mean costs of £192 per month based on present usage against £189 at the moment. Cllr. R Jakeman proposed acceptance of the quote, seconded by Cllr. P Pike with **all in favour**. **Clerk to progress**

10 Clerk's Report:

- 1) On July 17th the Government published a consultation proposing the removal of the statutory rule requiring cheques and other orders for the payment of money by parish councils to be signed by two councillors. A consultation is now under way which sets out safeguards for payments by these bodies
- 2) A CCTV Workshop is to be held at ENC on Thursday 30th August at 9.30 am.
- 3) The next meeting of larger Councils Partnership is scheduled for Thursday 27th September from 7 pm to 9 pm at Saxon Hall Raunds.

Chairman and Clerk to attend

- 4) Northants Acre is holding their AGM on Wednesday 12th September commencing at 6pm. No one available
- 5) There will be a road closure at the High Street Denford on 10th September for up to four days.

12 Items for Future Agendas:

There were no items for future Agendas

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

14/08/12/F&S/jgp