

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 21 NOVEMBER AT 7.00PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, PENRYN**

Councillors

Mrs G A Grant (Chairman)

J Langan, Mrs M K May, M J Mullins, Mrs S Peters, C S F Smith and M Snowdon

42. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs B Hulme (personal).

43. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

44. DISPENSATIONS

There were no requests for dispensations.

45. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No requests had been received from members of the public wishing to speak at the meeting.

46. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 11 October 2016 be approved and signed as a correct record.

Proposed by Councillor M Snowdon and seconded by Councillor Mrs M K May

47. BUDGET 2017–18

The Committee considered the draft budget prepared by the Town Clerk and Finance Officer following earlier discussions with the Amenities Committee and the Finance and General Purposes Committee. The Town Clerk advised that the draft budget without amendments would result in a precept of £361,644, with a total cost to the average Band D taxpayer of £177.21. This represented an increase of £36.52 (£3.04/month), or 26.0%. However, she added that there were some areas of the budget where savings could be made to reduce the impact should Councillors wish to do so.

In response to questions, the Town Clerk advised that the increase in the insurance budget took account of the move to the library and the need for buildings insurance to be added to the policy and that the provision for a HR and health and safety advisor would be subject to a decision being made later in the meeting under Agenda No. 13 (Appointment of HR and Health and Safety Advisor).

The Committee then considered the potential areas for savings identified in the report.

Temperance Hall Redecoration

It was suggested that the proposed budget of £10,000 could be halved by postponing the interior decoration for another year.

RESOLVED that the proposed budget for redecoration of the Temperance Hall of £10,000 be reduced to £5000, and that the interior redecoration of the hall be postponed for one year.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs G A Grant and seconded by Councillor Mrs M K May

Miscellaneous Town Events

It was noted that the various budgets for town events had already resulted in an increase of £2000 on the previous year.

RESOLVED that the proposed budget for miscellaneous town events of £2000 be deleted.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs S Peters and seconded by Councillor Mrs M K May

Minor Enhancement Grants

It was commented that ideally it would be beneficial to have a grant fund for helping residents to carry out repairs to buildings in the Conservation Area, however, it was effectively giving Council tax payers back their own money.

RESOLVED that the proposed budget for Minor Enhancement Grants of £5000 be reduced to £1000.

Proposed by Councillor J Langan and seconded by Councillor Mrs S Peters

Seats

The Town Clerk advised that she understood that the budget had been proposed to replace two benches in the Memorial Garden as they were not currently all of the same style and that the benches did not need replacing for any other reason. Councillor J Langan undertook to refurbish the benches in question should the Council decide to retain them.

RESOLVED that the proposed budget for seats of £3000 be deleted.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs S Peters and seconded by Councillor J Langan

Broad Street Pavement Fund

Councillor Mrs M K May commented that she would like to see the proposed budget of £10,000 towards the earmarked reserves fund for new pavements in Broad Street remain, but would be prepared to support a reduction if taxpayers were adversely affected. She advised that the estimated total cost of replacing the pavements had been estimated at £550k and the reserves that the Council had been building up was for matched funding.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs M K May and seconded by Councillor C S F Smith that the proposed budget for the Broad Street pavement fund of £10,000 be reduced to £5000.

It was proposed as an amendment by Councillor M J Mullins and seconded by Councillor M Snowdon that the budget be removed for the year 2017-18.

On a vote the amendment was lost.

RESOLVED that the proposed budget for the Broad Street pavement fund of £10,000 be reduced to £5000.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs M K May and seconded by Councillor C S F Smith

The Town Clerk enquired whether there were any further amendments to the draft budget. It was commented that the budget of £12,000 for the Neighbourhood Plan included earmarked reserves of £7000 and that given that the process would take two to three years and that the Steering Group could apply for £9000 of funding from 1 April 2017, the budget should be reduced to the £7000 in earmarked reserves.

RESOLVED that the proposed budget for the Neighbourhood Plan of £12,000 be reduced to £7000.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs M K May and seconded by Councillor Mrs S Peters

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL that, subject to the amendments agreed above, and to the decision to be taken on the appointment of a HR and health and safety advisor at Agenda No. 13 (Appointment of HR and Health and Safety Advisor), the draft budget be approved.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs M K May and seconded by Councillor M Snowdon

48. ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED that that the list of accounts paid and the monthly statement for the period 1 September to 31 October 2016 be approved.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs M K May and seconded by Councillor C S F Smith

49. STATEMENT OF INTERNAL CONTROLS

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL that the draft Statement of Internal Controls, attached as an Appendix to the report, be approved.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs S Peters and seconded by Councillor J Langan

50. COMMUNITY GRANTS POLICY

RESOLVED that the draft Community Grants Policy, attached as an Appendix to the report, be approved.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs S Peters and seconded by Councillor C S F Smith

51. COMMUNITY GRANTS

It was suggested by Councillor M J Mullins that community grants should be limited to a maximum of £100. The Town Clerk advised that this would need to be set out in the Community Grants Policy which the Committee had just approved.

Nankersey Male Choir

It was commented that the choir had supported a number of town events and had not charged a fee for doing so.

RESOLVED that a grant of £300 be awarded to Nankersey Male Choir to assist with the cost of PAT testing for the Penryn charity shop.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs M K May and seconded by Councillor Mrs S Peters

Tanya's Courage Trust

It was commented that the charity shop would be unable to sell any donated electrical items without PAT testing and that the charity shop always supported town events.

RESOLVED that a grant of £300 be awarded to Tanya's Courage Trust to assist with the purchase of a replacement organ/keyboard.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs M K May and seconded by Councillor J Langan

Carnon Carers

It was commented that Carnon Carers was a valuable service and that events such as the Halloween lunch at Penmorvah Manor was the only time some of the carers received a break. However, it was also commented that £800 was expensive for lunch for 21 people.

It was moved by Councillor C S F Smith and seconded by Councillor M Snowdon that a grant of £150 be awarded to Carnon Carers towards the cost of a Halloween lunch at Penmorvah Manor Hotel.

On a vote the motion was lost. The Town Clerk advised that voting against a grant of £200 did not necessarily constitute a vote to refuse a grant altogether and that Councillors needed to propose an alternative in order to make a clear decision.

It was moved by Councillor M J Mullins and seconded by Councillor J Langan that the grant request from Carnon Carers for £200 towards the cost of a Halloween lunch at Penmorvah Manor be refused.

It was moved as an amendment by Councillor Mrs S Peters and seconded by Councillor Mrs M K May that a grant of £75 be awarded to Carnon Carers towards the cost of a Halloween lunch at Penmorvah Manor Hotel.

On a vote the amendment was carried.

RESOLVED that a grant of £75 be awarded to Carnon Carers towards the cost of a Halloween lunch at Penmorvah Manor Hotel.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs S Peters and seconded by Councillor Mrs M K May

52. COUNCILLOR AUDIT

Councillor J Langan advised that the Councillor audit had not taken place on 11 November 2016 and the item was deferred to the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

53. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that in accordance with Section 1 of the Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items by reasons of the confidential nature of the items. Proceedings, apart from any resolutions passed, shall remain confidential.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs G A Grant and seconded by Councillor J Langan

54. APPOINTMENT OF HR AND HEALTH AND SAFETY ADVISOR

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL that the decision of the Council of 6 June 2016 to appoint a HR Advisor be rescinded and that the Council rejects the recommendation to appoint a Health and Safety Advisor.

Proposed by Councillor J Langan and seconded by Councillor M Snowdon

Councillor C S F Smith requested that his name be recorded as voting against the above decision.

55. REDECORATION OF THE TOWN HALL EXTERIOR

RESOLVED that Alan Symons be appointed contractor for the redecoration of the Town Hall exterior at a cost of £7428 plus VAT, including labour, materials and scaffolding.

Proposed by Councillor J Langan and seconded by Councillor Mrs M K May

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.05pm.