

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY 16TH FEBRUARY 2010

PRESENT: Councillor J. Arbuckle in the Chair

Councillors: K. Arbuckle, M. Townsley, S. Ellis, N. Hunt, D. Collins, S. Whitlock and I. Scott.

In attendance: T. Ferry

The Chairman announced that Mr Bob Shallcroft passed away yesterday the 15th February 2010, and as a mark of respect requested that this Committee hold one minute's silence.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor R. Hardcastle, Geoff Hudson, and Geoff Kneeshaw.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were no declarations of interest

3. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC – There were no member of the public in attendance.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Finance & General Purpose committee held on the 24th November 2009, and the Banking Sub Committee meetings held on the 9th, 11th, 17th December 2009 and 10 February 2010 were received and confirmed as true and accurate records of the proceedings and duly signed by the Chair.

5. MATTERS ARISING

Minute 7, Councillor K. Arbuckle asked for clarification regarding the functions of the Horsforth Matters editing group and the new group that is to be formed to investigate future publications.

It was agreed that the editing group is simply to edit the content of each publication before it is published. The group formed to investigate future publications is a direct result of the Quality Council requirements to produce four publications per year and to establish best value.

RESOLVED - To note the clarification between the editing group and the group formed to investigate future publications.

Banking Sub-Committee, Councillor D. Collins gave her apologies for not making an appointment with Lloyds TSB Bank.

RESOLVED - To note Councillor Collins apology.

6. ACCOUNTS

The Treasurer, Councillor D. Collins, provided the summary of accounts to date and an itemised list of payments of £13,351.61 from the accounts to 2nd February 2010.

RESOLVED - That the accounts and the list of payments of £13,351.61 be approved.

7. SPECIAL PROJECTS – A letter was presented to Members from Friends of Hunger Hills Wood accepting the £20,000 grant from Horsforth Town Council to create a perimeter path in Hunger Hills Wood.
RESOLVED – That this letter be noted.
8. MEETING DATES FOR 2010/11 – The Town Clerk presented a background paper to Members highlighting requirements to achieve Quality Council Status and a proposed Meeting Schedule to facilitate this requirement.
RESOLVED – To recommend that Council agree the meeting schedule in draft.
9. ROLE OF HONOUR BOARD – Councillor K. Arbuckle proposed that a Board of Honour be purchased in memory of Councillors who have served on the Council and are now deceased, and for their names to be entered on the board. Members agreed this proposal and that the funding for this purpose is to be from the special projects fund.
RESOLVED – That the Town Clerk provides the next meeting with a proposal and cost for the board.
10. COUNCIL'S DELEGATED POWER TO THE TOWN CLERK
The Town Council currently delegate powers to the Town Clerk for expenditure of up to £1000 per year for the administration of Council Business. This is currently the authority the Town Clerk uses for all office purchases including IT hardware, software, stationary, publications, furnishings and refreshments.

Members are asked to consider renewing this power under the Local Government Act 1972, s101 (a).

RESOLVED – That the Town Clerk is approved to incur expenditure of up to £1000 per year for the administration of Council Business in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, s101 (a).
11. PROVISION OF GRIT BINS IN HORSFORTH
Councillor Scott informed Members that Leeds City Council will now accept applications from individuals for grit bins as long as someone is responsible for contacting them to replenish the bin.
The Town Clerk informed Members that all Council's have had salt controls imposed by Government due to current shortages. This has resulted in a purchase order for a grit bin and salt for Salisbury Mews being rejected by Leeds City Council. He then asked if it would be appropriate to purchase the bin from Leeds City Council and to purchase the salt from another source to fill the bin, Members agreed to this.
RESOLVED
a. To note Councillor Scott's report.
b. That the grit bin is purchased from Leeds City Council and the salt purchased from another source.
12. CODE OF CONDUCT INVESTIGATIONS
The Democratic Services would normally advise Councillors when a complaint has been made against them.
They have requested the Town Clerk to bring this to Councillors attention and to ask if they would like to 'opt out' of being advised if a complaint is raised against them.
The reason for an opt out option is because a survey was taken of Leeds City Councillors which has shown that a limited number would prefer not to know of an investigation because of the time taken to investigate the complaint, and the possible anxiety and stress it may cause.
RESOLVED – That the Town Clerk ask each Councillor if they wish to opt out of being informed if a complaint is raised against them.

13. ST GEORGE'S DAY PARADE AND CHURCH SERVICE SUNDAY 25TH APRIL

2010 – Members were provided with the details of this service.

RESOLVED – To note these details.

14. ROYAL BRITISH LEGION CORRESPONDENCE

Members were provided correspondence thanking the Council for providing tea and coffee after the Remembrance Parade and for the £75.75 collected in donations. Councillor K. Arbuckle requested a note of thanks go to Councillor Douglas Holmes for his contribution.

RESOLVED

- a. To note the correspondence from the Royal British legion.
- b. That a note of thanks is recorded for Councillor Douglas Holmes for his contribution.

15. WEST NORTH WEST LEEDS AREA MANAGEMENT VOLUNTEER MARKET PLACE EVENT – PUDSEY SATURDAY 6TH MARCH 2010

Members agreed that this is a good idea in principle but is unlikely to attract Horsforth residents to attend because it is to be held in Pudsey.

It was agreed that the Town Clerk should write to North West Area Management with the Council's views and to advise them that and they would support the event if it was held in Horsforth.

RESOLVED – That the Town Clerk writes to North West Area Management to provide the Council's views and support if the event was held in Horsforth.

16. RAILWAY LINE BETWEEN COLNE AND SKIPTON

A request was received from the Skipton East Lancashire Rail Action Partnership requesting support for the re-opening of the Colne to Skipton missing rail link of 11.5 miles as part of the National Rail Network

RESOLVED – To support this by letter.

17. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

- a. To provide a list of policies, procedures and other statutory information the Council should/must approve or provide on an annual basis.
- b. Horsforth Gala approved funding

The next meeting of the Finance & General Purpose Committee is to be on Tuesday the 20th April 2010 at 7.30pm in the Town Council office.

HTC/F&GP/24