

ILMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE held in the Chamber, Ilminster on Tuesday 6 March 2012 at 7.30pm

Present

Chairman: Cllr D Miller

Councillors: Cllr P Burton, Cllr C Goodall, Cllr A Lawson, Cllr D Miller, Cllr J Pallister, Cllr A Shearman, Cllr J Sothen, Cllr R Swann, Cllr L Vijeh

Officers: Mrs J Thorne, Mrs R Hope, Miss N McIntosh

1. Apologies

Apologies of absence were received from Cllr's Sainsbury, Taylor, and Whaites

The Clerk reported the formal reason for absence of Cllr Whaites was serious illness. Since Cllr Whaites had already been absent from meetings for over five months and was likely to be absent for some time to come, it was RESOLVED to approve the absence of Cllr Whaites for reason of serious illness.

Councillors were happy for Cllr Whaites to remain a Councillor and noted that the action taken ensured that the allowed six months absence from the meetings before disqualification would now commence for Cllr Whaites from the date of this meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the Finance and Policy Committee meetings held on 31st January be approved and signed as a correct record.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

a) Town Council Logo

The Clerk reported that she had investigated the costing of printing of the logo in colour or black and white and gave details to the councillors. There was further discussion regarding the design on the logo however it was agreed that no further changes should be made.

The Clerk informed the Councillors the changes to the logo were one of the reasons for the delay in getting the new Herne Hill leaflets produced. Cllr Lawson reported that the finishing touches to the leaflet had been completed, the next step is to review text and check all the details. He felt that some additional information such as Country Code should be added to the leaflet. The Councillors were happy with the progress.

Members agreed that 1000 copies should be printed, with the Council funding £140, the remaining £140 Cllr Goodall would seek to obtain a grant. However it was

agreed to still go ahead with 1000 copies even if the grant for £140 could not be obtained.

b) Cemetery Lodge

The Clerk informed the Councillors she had been looking into the costs of Management Service from local providers to try and find a more competitive price as our current provider charges 12% of the monthly rental costs to manage the property. Although they are happy to lower their fees to 10%, quotes from other companies range from between 8% and 11%. The Clerk was asked to obtain formal quotes from the two local companies offering fees at 8%.

5. Website

Cllr Lawson updated the Councillors on his progress with the new website and displayed the proposed changes.

He had spoken to Vision ICT regarding the changes to the website and had asked if access from the office could be reviewed. He also noted that Vision ICT were currently updating their programmes

Cllr Lawson asked that he, the Clerk and the Administration Manager should continue to work on the website and report back on progress. They would continue to review the costing of the provision of support and hosting of the website. The Councillors agreed that the Administration Manager should complete a HTML Course costing £65.

6. Priorities

Cllr Miller reported that the Mayor and Chairs of Committees have met to discuss the issue of Council priorities. Councillors approved the proposed priorities list.

Cllr Miller noted that the markers at the Cemetery Lodge had not moved at all. Cllr Burton noted that a bench at the cemetery had not been bolted down and was worried about theft.

7. Councillor Representative Responsibilities

The Clerk made councillors aware that when appointed to voluntary organisations as Trustees they are still subject to the Code of Conduct at those meetings. Also business at such meetings is personal to the member and they cannot be directed how to vote.

Cllr Goodall added that there is a scrutiny review on representation on outside bodies at SSDC. She would recommend that members do not become trustees but act as an observer, although personal liability can occur.

8. 12/00541/TCA – Beech Tree at Station Road

The Administrative Manager reported that the tree was in a conservational area. Councillors noted the application and commented that if the tree was felled it should be replaced by another Beech tree.

9. Town Clerks Report and Correspondence

- a) The Clerk reported she had received a letter from The Local Government Boundary Commission, with draft recommendations for the electoral review of Somerset. This had been distributed to councillors and comments should be received by the 9 April 2012.
- b) There was to be a South Somerset District Council Core Strategy meeting at the Shrubbery next Wednesday 21 April at 4pm.
- c) Cllr Miller asked the Clerk to identify the fixed assets.

The meeting closed at 8.31pm

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Signed

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