



Skipton Town Council

17/

Finance and Policy Committee Thursday 22 June 2017 at 6.30 pm

Present: Cllrs: C Clark (Chairman), R G Heseltine, E Jaquin, P Madeley, Mrs K M^cIntyre, A Rankine and P H Whitaker.

Officers: Dave Parker (Chief Officer), Les Chandler (Estate Manager) and Wendy Allsopp (Committee Services Officer).

2 members of the public were present.

1. To accept representations from the Public between 6.30 pm and 6.45 pm.

None.

2. To accept apologies for absence.

Cllr C Harbron – Absent.

3. To record declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in items on the agenda.

Cllrs R G Heseltine, E Jaquin, A Rankine and P Whitaker declared a non-pecuniary interest with regard to agenda item 12 as they worked closely with Mr Adrian Green as members of Craven District Council.

4. To consider the recommendations of the Chief Officer relating to requests for dispensations to Members on items requiring a declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests.

None.

5. To note the minutes from the previous meeting held on 20 April 2017.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes from the Finance and Policy Committee meeting held on 20 April 2017 as a true and accurate record of what transpired at that meeting.

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Members **RESOLVED** to bring agenda items 11 and 12 forward.

11. To consider excluding press and public for consideration of item 12 on the grounds that it relates to confidential matters.

Due to the confidential nature of the discussion to follow it was **RESOLVED** that in accordance with Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable and in the public interest that the press and public be asked to withdraw.

12. To consider matters relating to the potential sale of Council land at North Parade, Skipton

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It was **RESOLVED** to re-admit press and public to the meeting.

6. To report information arising from the minutes of items not on the agenda from members and the Chief Officer.

None.

7. To receive any updates from the Chief Officer regarding the Council's accommodation in Skipton Town Hall.

The Chief Officer reported that no senior officer from Craven District Council had been in contact with to discuss matters.

The District Council's original contractors who were working on the main offices have now left and CDC are waiting for 1 more quote out of 3 required from alternative sources.

A problem has been found with the roof drainage which was causing rain to enter the Chief Officer's office, however, it has not rained since so it is uncertain whether the problem has been resolved.

It was agreed that the internal scaffolding, which has now been removed, was a health & safety risk to staff and visitors and a Risk Assessment should have been carried out by the landlord, Craven District Council. This matter to be taken up with CDC in due course.

8. To undertake a review of the Council's Financial Regulations.

Members reviewed the Council's current Financial Regulations and agreed to make the following recommendations to Full Council:

Paragraph 2.5 to be removed

Paragraph 3.4 to reflect that all transactions are monitored by the Audit and Scrutiny Committee on a periodic basis.

Paragraph 4.5 to include meeting between Internal Auditor and Members.

Paragraph 9.2 to be removed.

Paragraph 11.1 (v) to read Leader rather than Vice Chairman.

9. To decide whether the perimeter wall at Holy Trinity Church should be restored in situ or set back to facilitate the widening of the adjacent public footway.

Given the public safety issues involved it was **RESOLVED** to restore the perimeter wall at Holy Trinity slightly further into the churchyard to facilitate the widening of the pedestrian footway on the Bailey, subject to confirmation that the Council has the power to do this.

10. To consider matters relating to the attendance of non-committee Members at meetings of the Council's Standing Committees.

Following issues raised at the last Public Services Committee meeting the Chief Officer informed Members that he had taken advice from the Yorkshire Local Councils Association (YLCA) and National Association of Local Councils (NALC).

This advice suggested that, whilst the Chairman of Public Services had acted correctly given that Standing Orders relating to this matter were currently suspended, it was for the Council to decide on its preferred procedure.

Members agreed to recommend to Full Council that Standing Order 15b should be amended to read: *'Any Councillor not a member of a Committee has the right to attend meetings and can speak at the Chairman's discretion which must not be unreasonably withheld.'*

13. To receive notification of matters that members would like including on a future agenda.

None

The meeting closed at 8.37 pm.