



Skipton Town Council

Finance and Policy Committee Thursday 15 February 2018 at 6.30 pm

Present: Cllrs: C Clark (Chairman), P Madeley K McIntyre, R G Heseltine,
A Rankine and P Whitaker.

Officers: Dave Parker (Chief Officer)

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

None

2. To accept apologies for absence.

Cllr E Jaquin (Holiday)

Absent - Cllr C Harbron

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

None

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 meetings held on 14 December 2017 and 11 January 2018.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes from the meetings held on 14 December 2017 and 11 January 2018 as a true and accurate record of what transpired at those meetings.

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Chairman:

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

None

7. To note the completion of the sale of land at North Parade, Skipton, and to consider short-term proposals for the proceeds of the sale

The Chief Officer updated Members on the completion of the sale of Council land at North Parade, Skipton and confirmed that the purchase price (£540,000 less a small amount of bank transfer charges) had been received in full by the Council. The Chief Officer also reported that the Council had entered into a short-term license agreement which would allow for the continued use of the land as a recreation ground until the developer commences work on site. This was for an initial period of four months, with a rolling one-month license thereafter.

Members discussed short and medium term options for the cash receipt and it was **RESOLVED** that:

An amount of up to £50,000 be allocated to the Public Services Committee to cover capital projects discussed at the time of the 2018-2019 budget-setting process. The Committee to come back to Finance & Policy with recommendations.

The Chief Officer should look into medium-term investments for the capital sum and come back to Committee with options in due course.

In the short-term, the Chief Officer should look into 35 and 95 day-notice bonds with the Council's existing bank to maximise interest without risk to the Council

8. To note matters relating to the existing Casual Vacancy in North Ward, together with the by-election timetable

The Chief Officer's report covering the Casual Vacancy on Skipton North Ward was **NOTED**.

9. To consider matters relating to the relocation of the Petyt Library

Following debate it was **RESOLVED** that the Chief Officer should continue to pursue options with Ermysted's Grammar School regarding the re-siting of the Petyt Library. It was acknowledged that the Council may have to make a financial contribution towards any project – but that this would almost certainly result in a longer-term saving for the Council when compared to the costs associated with secure storage. It was also noted that a secure storage option would restrict access to the collection.

10. To receive an oral report from the Mayor, Cllr Whitaker and the Chief Officer on discussions held in Skipton’s twin town, Simbach-am-Inn, and relating to twinning and school exchange programmes

The Town Mayor, Cllr Whitaker and the Chief Officer briefed Members on the recent civic visit to Simbach, reporting on meetings held to discuss longer-term twinning issues and, in particular, issues surrounding the long-standing school exchange visits between Skipton and

Simbach. The Mayor and Cllr Whitaker also reported on the works undertaken within Simbach following the devastating floods of 2016.

It was **RESOLVED** that the remit for progressing matters regarding twinning should be included with that of the new Events & Tourism Committee, with effect from the new civic year starting in May 2018.

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

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

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It was **RESOLVED** to readmit press and public.

13. Review of Committee Structure

The Chief Officer’s report was noted and it was **RESOLVED** that the further development of the Council’s revised committee Structure should be undertaken by the Staffing Working Group alongside the completion of its work on the revised staffing structure.

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

None

The meeting closed at 7.20 pm