

WALLINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL

M I N U T E S

of the

Finance and Properties Committee Meeting held in the Council Offices,
Wallingford on Monday 6th August 2018

P R E S E N T

The Mayor, Councillor Upcraft

Councillors Beatty, Lloyd, Norton Whelan and Wilder

The Chairman, Councillor Colin Dolton

The Town Clerk, Mrs Paula Lopez

The Responsible Finance Officer, Mrs Jennipher Jeje

181. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies although Councillor Titchener was not present.

182. ADMISSION OF THE PUBLIC

It was Proposed by Councillor Whelan, Seconded by Councillor Norton and

RESOLVED:

THAT in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, as amended by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the Meeting during consideration of the following items on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public's interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted: -

Agenda Item 6 (i) - Aged Debtors

183. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

A Councillor with voting rights who has a disclosable pecuniary interest or another interest as set out in our Council's Standing Orders code of Conduct (Item 13) in a matter being considered at a meeting is subject to statutory limitations or restrictions under code of conduct and his right to participate and vote on the

matter (guidelines are available at the meeting and all Councillors have received a copy prior to the meeting)

Councillor Whelan declared an interest in Agenda item 7 (ii)

184. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION –NOTIFIED AND IMPROMPTU (Total 15 Minutes)

There were no members of the public present at the meeting

185. MINUTES

To sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 9th July 2018 as set out on pages 45 – 49 of the Minute Book, copy previously circulated to members.

Proposed by Councillor Norton, Seconded by Councillor Beatty

RESOLVED:

THAT the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 9th July 2018 as set out on pages 45 - 49 of the Minute Book, copy previously circulated to members, copy attached to the Minute Book be signed as a correct record.

186. THE RESPONSIBLE FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORTS

i) Bills Schedules for April 2018, and May 2018.

Proposed by Councillor Norton, Seconded by Councillor Beatty

RESOLVED

THAT the schedule of bills paid in April 2018 and May 2018 be received and the action of The Responsible Finance Officer in paying same is confirmed.

Items (ii) and (iii) did not have the correct paperwork and the Responsible Finance Officer left the room to photocopy some sets.

Proposed by Councillor Lloyd, Seconded by Councillor Whelan

RESOLVED

THAT *items 8* Adoption of Telephone Boxes and *9* Agatha Christie Sculpture be brought forward.

187. ADOPTION OF TELEPHONE BOXES

Members had all received the paperwork relating to this item in advance of the meeting. The Town Clerk advised members that the two telephone boxes, one at the junction of St George's Road/Blackstone Road and one at the Plough Corner, Junction of Croft Road/St Johns Road had now been handed over to the Town Council for adoption. The Town Clerk appraised members of the required maintenance and stated that the Town Council now needs to decide what to use them for. To be discussed at the next Council meeting. The Town Clerk was asked by The Mayor whether they could be moved and re sited to which the Town Clerk replied that she would check.

188. AGATHA CHRISTIE SCULPTURE

Following the receipt of Mrs Blacker's report (attached) Members discussed the proposed LEADER application for the Agatha Christie Sculpture project and the need to top up the application from the S106 Arts fund. The Mayor believed that in order to secure the LEADER funding it was appropriate to use a small amount of the S106 money.

Proposed by Councillor Norton, Seconded by Councillor Beatty

RECOMMENDED

THAT an application proceed for LEADER funding and that some monies, £5k to £10k be taken from the S106 Public Arts Fund.

The Responsible Finance Officer Returned.

189. THE RESPONSIBLE FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORTS

Continuation of Minute 186 above:

ii) Quarter 1 Accounts

Proposed by Councillor Lloyd, Seconded by Councillor Whelan

RESOLVED

THAT the Quarter 1 Accounts ending the 30th June 2018, copy attached to the minute book be received and approved.

iii) A Summary of the Town Council's Investments and Treasury Stock

Members discussed the current investments which were found to be appropriate however Councillor Lloyd asked that some of the investments be moved from Santander in order to spread the risk across a different bank. Members thanked Jennipher for her concise presentation of the accounts and information.

190. GRANTS 2018/2019

Members considered the following grant applications:

i) St Mary Le More and All Hallows PCC – Grant application for repair work to the west side of the Church tower.

Proposed by Councillor Wilder, Seconded by Councillor Beatty

RESOLVED

THAT a grant of £250 is awarded to the St Mary Le More and All Hallows PCC for repair work to the west side of the Church tower.

Councillor Norton wished it to be recorded that she abstained.

ii) Wallingford Accessible Boat Club (WABC) – Grant application towards initial expenses: purchase of wheely boat, etc.

Proposed Councillor Beatty, Seconded by Councillor Dolton

RESOLVED

THAT a grant of £250 is awarded to Wallingford Accessible Boat Club (WABC) – to help fund initial expenses: purchase of wheely boat, etc.

Councillor Lloyd asked for it to be recorded that he was not in favour of this.

191. GENERAL PROPERTY UPDATE

i) 8b Castle Street – An Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) Exemption is still to be registered. **Councillor Lloyd to action.**

ii) Town Hall - The Town Clerk handed out a document showing the extracted works required which she had taken from the full condition report (a copy of which Members had all received). The Town Clerk reported that she would speak to conservation at SODC in order to obtain their advice on who to get quotes from and the process required regarding the approval for the work. Oxfordshire County Council procurement team are to be engaged for the whole works. In addition to this, due to the age of the Stannah Stair Lift and the possible difficulty in obtaining parts, a new stair lift will be included in next year's budget.

Councillor Beatty left the meeting room at 1824 hours to take a phone call and returned at 1827 hours

iii) War Memorial – Work is due to commence on the 17th September.

iv) Bull Croft Recreation Rooms – The Town Clerk reported that before any further work is carried out on the building the Structural Engineer will carry out an intrusive investigation into the condition of the building. The areas will be opened up the 9th of August with the inspection taking place on 10th August. The contractor will also be present on the 10th to close the areas as they are inspected. The tenants have been advised of this plan of action

v) Parks Yard – The Town Clerk drew members' attention to the barristers/Hedges view of the 1913 indenture in that a building such as a community centre could be included on the site as long as it was kept under the control of the Town Council. Members discussed and decided that it was worthy of a more in-depth discussion at the next meeting.

vi) Bull Croft Lodge – The Food Bank's temporary occupation of the Lodge was discussed and it was concluded that the Food Bank should now be asked to leave with one month's notice. Councillor Whelan will make the first contact followed by a letter from the Town Council.

vii) Regal – The Town Clerk reported that that Oxfordshire County Council's Procurement and Legal teams are currently working on this.

192. BOATHOUSE LICENCE

The Clerk Town reported that the draft licence had taken a long time to come through from Greene King's lawyers and now that Hedges have had the opportunity to review this they had raised some issues. The Town Clerk has some questions for Hedges to clarify before she raises the issues with Greene King.

193. PROPOSAL FOR DRAFT INCOME STRATEGY AND INCOME POLICY

Councillor Whelan's report had been distributed in advance of the meeting. Members discussed and it was decided that this should be looked at in more detail when the budget is prepared with a view to developing a financial strategy on both a

yearly and five yearly basis. Members thanked Councillor Whelan for her work on this.

194. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Adoption of Telephone Boxes

Community building on the parks yard

Draft Income and Strategy and Income Policy

Spreading Treasury Stock

Grants, as required

Next year's budget

Precept new housing 85 properties

Possible engagement of an estates/asset manager next year.

CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES SEE PAGE 77