

**ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of a Meeting of the Revenue & Resources Committee held on Thursday 18th June 2015 at 7.30pm in the Committee Room, Royal Wootton Bassett Rugby Club, Ballards Ash, Royal Wootton Bassett.

**PRESENT: Councillors:** Steve Bucknell, Susan Doyle, Ian Ferries, Paul Heaphy, Mike Leighfield, Marion Sweet and John Wilks.

**Officers in Attendance:** Johnathan Bourne, Town Clerk, Michelle Temple, Administrative Services Manager, John MacIndoe, Grounds Maintenance Team Leader, Emily Maiden, Committee Clerk and Administrative Assistant.

**4. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mike Farrow.

**5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To receive Declarations of Interest in accordance with sections 10 and 12 of Wiltshire Council's Members Code of Conduct, as adopted by Royal Wootton Bassett Town Council at a meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2012.

**6. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Committee was advised that £6,000 had been spent on the Wootton Hall project, which included professional fees and staff time. The Chairman expressed concern about the total cost, and noted the very short timescale imposed upon the project by the date of the property auction. Whilst some

Members agreed with the Chairman's assessment of the project, there were also Councillors that took exception to his comments.

## **7. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

RESOLVED to confirm and sign minutes of meetings of the Committees held on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2015 [R&R/6/2014-2015] and Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2015 [R&R/1/2015-2016]. Copies previously circulated.

## **8. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE VEHICLE**

At the Amenities Committee meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2015, Members received a verbal presentation from Grounds Maintenance Team Leader John MacIndoe updating members on maintenance issues in respect of the Council's Transit Tipper. The vehicle was subject to a pre-MOT assessment which identified a number of defects, for which the cost of repair is estimated to be between £3,000-£4,000. It was also noted that the Transit Tipper is limited in its capacity for safe storage and off-road travel.

The Amenities Committee approved the replacement of the Transit Tipper, funded from the asset replacement reserve; and asked John MacIndoe to obtain quotations for the Revenue and Resources Committee to consider.

The quotations received, together with a recommendation from the Grounds Maintenance Team Leader were previously circulated.

The Committee was asked to consider the quotations received and approve a price and supplier for the replacement tipper vehicle.

The Grounds Maintenance Team Leader John MacIndoe was in attendance at the meeting and was asked to outline his reasons for recommending the quotation for the Mercedes Benz Sprinter vehicle. The Committee was advised that the vehicle met the requirements of the Grounds Maintenance Team in terms of storage space and security, and was supported by a favourable service package. Mercedes Benz Sprinters are known to have a high level of residual value and vehicle reliability. It was noted that the quotation provided by Rygor Commercials Limited did not include part

exchange of the existing Transit Tipper, as there had been local interest in the purchase of the vehicle.

RESOLVED to approve the purchase of the Mercedes Benz Sprinter as described in the quotation received from Rygor Commercials Limited, at a cost of £28,748.45

## **9. WILTSHIRE COUNCIL AMENITY SERVICES**

Discussion item. At a meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2015, Members discussed a number of concerns that have become apparent over the past 12 months regarding the funding and delivery of local Wiltshire Council amenity services. The discussion arose as a result of difficulties with Wiltshire Council's policy for the Community Area Transport Group (CATG), whereby town and parish councils have been asked to contribute towards the funding of minor highway works. The Town Council resolved in February not to provide funding for any CATG schemes as it was felt that highway matters were the responsibility of Wiltshire Council; this resolution has led to some disappointment within the CATG.

The difficulties experienced in engaging with Wiltshire Council via the CATG initiated a wider discussion regarding the provision of Wiltshire Council services within Royal Wootton Bassett, as it has been noted that there is an increasing concern regarding the ability of Wiltshire Council to fund local amenity services in the current funding crisis.

It was noted at the meeting of the Amenities Committee that any future concerns regarding Wiltshire Council services would be forwarded to the office to assist with the creation of a master list detailing the level and type of complaints.

In that context, the Revenue and Resources Committee was invited to contribute to the wider discussion on the provision of Wiltshire Council services within Royal Wootton Bassett; at this stage the item was discussion based therefore it was not necessary for any decisions to be made by the Committee at the present time.

The following points were raised during the discussion: -

- There is a distinction between essential safety works carried out by the Highways Department and the types of scheme implemented by the CATG, which tend to be schemes that are non-essential, but which enhance the area. The Town Council would be asked to provide some funding towards the non-essential enhancement work, however this has not been conveyed clearly.
- The idea of Wiltshire Council transferring some services to the Town Council was discussed, such as the management of car parks, grass cutting, and responsibility for the installation and emptying of waste bins; however there would need to be an appropriate level of funding offered for the Town Council to undertake the transferred duties.
- Members welcomed the suggestion that the Chair of the Area Board would be happy to attend a future Town Council meeting to discuss Wiltshire Council amenity service provision as a whole.

#### **10. END OF YEAR INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT 2014/2015**

The Town Council received a copy of the end of year internal audit report for 2014-2015, copy previously circulated.

RESOLVED to note the report.

#### **11. COMMUNICATIONS**

The Committee was asked whether it wishes to issue any Press Releases or other Communications in respect of the Committee Agenda items.

RESOLVED to issue communications congratulating Royal Wootton Bassett Academy on its nomination in the secondary school category at the TES school awards 2015, to be held in London on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2015.

*The meeting closed at 8.05pm*