

ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Revenue and Resources Committee held on Thursday 24th March 2016 at 7.30pm in the Committee Room, Royal Wootton Bassett Rugby Club, Ballards Ash, Royal Wootton Bassett

PRESENT: Councillors: Steve Bucknell, Sue Doyle, Mike Farrow, Ian Ferries, Mike Leighfield, Marion Sweet, John Wilks.

Also in attendance: Councillors Janet Georgiou, Audrey Wannell and Chris Wannell.

Officers in Attendance: Johnathan Bourne, Town Clerk, Michelle Temple, Administrative Services Manager, Emily Maiden, Committee Clerk.

46. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Paul Heaphy.

47. 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 Thursday 12th July 2012.

RESOLVED to note that Councillor Marion Sweet declared a non-pecuniary interest in the Grant Aid item as her husband is a member of the Rotary Club.

48. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reminded Members that the Mayor's Fun Run is to be held on Sunday 10th April 2016, and that volunteers are still sought to assist on the day.

49. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED to confirm and sign minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on Thursday 28th January 2015 [R&R/5/2015-2016]. Copies previously circulated.

50. GRANT AID

The Committee was asked to consider two Grant Aid Applications submitted by Royal Wootton Bassett Neighbourhood Policing Team and the Rotary Club of Royal Wootton Bassett Town, report and supporting documentation previously circulated.

Rotary Club of Royal Wootton Bassett Town - Two representatives of the organization were in attendance at the meeting to answer any questions and outline the reasons for the Grant Aid application.

RESOLVED to award the Rotary Club of Royal Wootton Bassett Town £200 to be put towards the Senior Citizen's Spring Tea Party, provided that the Town Council crest is added to the literature publicising the event, and that the support of the Council is recognised where possible in any press releases and related material.

Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Neighbourhood Policing Team – The local Police had submitted an application for £500 to contribute towards the purchase of one of a proposed set of two bicycles to help improve the visibility of the Neighbourhood Policing Team within the community area. Matched funding for the second bike had been sought from the Area Board but had not been forthcoming at this stage.

RESOLVED to award funding of £1250.95, to cover the full cost of purchasing two bicycles. It was noted that this would exceed the amount remaining in the Grant Aid budget, however as the Town Council has managed its grants budget very well for the past number of years, it was considered worthwhile as a one-off overspend on the budgeted figure, unlikely to occur again in the future.

Further RESOLVED that each bike will be fitted with the Town Council logo as they will only be used for patrols within Royal Wootton Bassett. The cost of the production of the decal logos will be covered by the Town Council. The Mayor will officially hand over the bicycles to the Police on behalf of the Town Council as part of the conditions of receiving the Grant Aid.

51. CLOSURE OF BOROUGHFIELDS PUBLIC CONVENIENCES BY WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

The Committee received a report from Gillian Welsman-Clark, copy previously circulated.

The Town Clerk detailed a meeting that had taken place with Adrian Hampton of Wiltshire Council, at which it was highlighted that the legal agreement proposed by Wiltshire Council was not fit for purpose with regards to Royal Wootton Bassett.

RESOLVED to: -

- Continue to discuss the details of the agreement with Wiltshire Council in the hope of a satisfactory outcome for Royal Wootton Bassett.
- Issue a press release to inform residents that the closure of the toilets was imposed upon the town by Wiltshire Council, and that the Town Council are negotiating in order to maintain provision of public toilets.
- Research the average price for pay-as-you-go toilets such as those in Devizes.
- Maintain a dialogue with Sainsbury's, as they are the owners of the existing toilet block.

- Apply for a Community Asset Transfer for the area of land at Sparrow Lane in order to secure the site for possible future public toilets.
- Commend Gillian Welsman-Clarke on the work she undertook in compiling the report.

52. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

RESOLVED to note the report from the Council's Internal Auditor, in respect of internal audit work carried out on 8th March 2016, copy previously circulated.

53. 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 the following communications: -

- Grant Aid – a brief update informing residents of all the organisations that have received Grant Aid support over the past Civic year.
- Public toilets – Emphasizing that the Town Council are attempting to maintain provision in the town, and that it was a Wiltshire Council decision to close the current public toilets.
- A letter of thanks to be sent to the Rugby Club for permitting the Town Council use of the Committee Room for 12 months.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm