

ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Revenue & Resources Committee held on Thursday 26th January 2017 at 7.30pm in Manor House, Lime Kiln, Royal Wootton Bassett.

PRESENT: Councillors: Steve Bucknell, Sue Doyle, Mike Farrow, Stephan Jarvis, Paul Heaphy, Mike Leighfield, Marion Sweet, John Wilks

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

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

40. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

41. 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 12th July 2012.

There were no Declarations of Interest.

42. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman informed the Committee that there will be an official ceremony at the War Memorial with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME) to mark the installation of the steel poppies. A date for this ceremony is yet to be confirmed; Members will be updated in due course.

43. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED to confirm and sign minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on Thursday 24th November 2017 [R&R/4/16-17]. Copies previously circulated.

44. GRANT AID

The Committee was asked to consider the Grant Aid Applications submitted by the Rotary Club of Royal Wootton Bassett Town and Wootton Bassett Carnival as below, report and supporting documentation previously circulated.

Rotary Club of Royal Wootton Bassett Town

Mr Steve Walls was in attendance as a representative of the Rotary Club of Royal Wootton Bassett Town, and thanked the Town Council for its continued support for the Senior Citizens Spring Tea Party, which is very popular with residents. In past years the Town Council has awarded Grant Aid of £200 which has contributed towards the cost of providing entertainment. This year the event takes place on Saturday 6th May 2017, and it is hoped that entertainment will be provided by a local choir.

RESOLVED to award Grant Aid of £200 for the Senior Citizens Spring Tea Party 2017, noting that the Town Council crest would be added to all promotional literature for the event. The Town Council advertising banners were offered to the Rotary Club of Royal Wootton Bassett Town for use at the Spring Tea Party.

The Chairman thanked Mr Steve Walls for his attendance, and extended a thank you to both of the town Rotary Clubs for their hard work and dedication.

Wootton Bassett Carnival

Mrs Barbara Sealey attended the meeting as a representative of Wootton Bassett Carnival Committee in respect of the application for Grant Aid of £390 to make and repair cloaks for the Carnival King and two Princes.

RESOLVED to award Grant Aid of £390 to Wootton Bassett Carnival for the upgrading of the Carnival cloaks.

The Committee thanked Mrs Sealey for her attendance, and for all the hard work that the Carnival Committee undertake each year in bringing the event to the town.

45. TOWN COUNCIL ACCOUNTS

To receive the recent Town Council accounting spreadsheet, covering the period April 2016- December 2016, copy previously circulated.

Councillor Steve Buckell raised a number of questions which were addressed by the Town Clerk.

RESOLVED to note the Town Council accounting spreadsheet.

46. HIGHWAYS WORKING PARTY

To receive an update report on the work of the Highways Working Party, following a meeting held on Wednesday 11th January 2017, copy previously circulated.

RESOLVED to note the report from the Highways Working Party.

47. ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT LIBRARY

The Committee received a report from the Town Clerk, copy previously circulated.

At a meeting with Wiltshire Councillor John Thomson, held on Friday 6th January 2017, Councillors Mike Leighfield, Marion Sweet and the Town Clerk negotiated the following in relation to Royal Wootton Bassett Library:

- A 30-year tenure agreement and terms of usage by the town council to ensure the sustainability and longevity of the library and all the services provided from this location. This would provide the town council with first call on the meeting accommodation at all times and first call on the floor space of the library, out of hours.
- Wiltshire Council will continue to be responsible for the facilities management and the administration of lettings outside of the town council's direct usage.
- The town council will make a one off payment of no more than £140K or to secure the above. This funding will be returned to the town council if at any future point within the next 30 years Wiltshire Council wish to break the above contract. Should the value of £140K depreciate in this time, the level of funding returned to the Town Council will be of equal value based upon the Retail Price Index at current borrowing rates.

RESOLVED that the Town Council enter into the partnership agreement on the terms and conditions set out above. This agreement will protect and preserve the Library as a public facility against any future funding cuts made at Wiltshire whilst providing the town council with a central base from which to hold its meeting for the next three decades.

48. 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 on the Grant Aid awards made to the Senior Citizens Spring Tea Party and Wootton Bassett Carnival.