

Minutes of the Reconvened Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 23 March 2010 at the Old Abbey House, Abingdon.

Present: Cllr Peter Fulk - Chair of Amenities & Recreation
Cllr Jim Halliday
Cllr Patrick Lonergan - Chair of Best Value Sub
Cllr Angela Lawrence
Cllr Lesley Legge
Cllr Julie Mayhew-Archer - Chair CH Museum Management
Cllr Alison Rooke
Cllr Martin Smith - Chair of Planning & Highways
Mayor of Abingdon - Ex-officio

In attendance: Mr Nigel Warner - Town Clerk
Mrs Sandra Hill - Deputy Town Clerk
Mr Steve Rich - Project & Technical Manager

129 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from the Mayor of Abingdon, Cllr Patricia Hobby.

130 **Declarations of interest**

Cllrs Jim Halliday, Angela Lawrence, Patrick Lonergan, Alison Rooke and Julie Mayhew-Archer all declared personal interest in any matters relating to the Vale of White Horse District Council as elected Members of that Council. Cllr Lesley Legge declared a personal interesting relation to confidential minute 43 – Town Crier’s Uniform - as her husband is a member of the Abingdon Guild of Town Criers.

131 **Minutes**

125 – Christmas Lights Improvements – page 6. It was confirmed that the Choose Abingdon Partnership were being asked to consult with businesses, but that they would not be making the final decision on this.

Resolved: that the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meetings held on 9 March 2010, be signed as a true and correct record.

The Committee relayed their thanks to the Town Clerk for producing the minutes in such a short timescale.

132 **Matters Arising**

115 Fisheries Sub-Committee – Members requested that the position regarding public liability insurance in relation to club matches should be reviewed as soon as possible.

133 **Matters Referred from Other Committees**

It is noted that the Council is represented on the JET and minutes of the meeting are circulated to all Members so they are kept up to date with developments.

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting of the JET held on 15 January 2010 be noted.

134 **Financial and Performance Monitoring and General Report of the Town Clerk/ Responsible Financial Officer**

(1) Internal Audit Action Plan

The Internal Audit report for 2009-10 had been circulated with the agenda. The Town Clerk tabled the draft response to the Internal Audit Action Plan as attached to these minutes. It was confirmed that in relation to R8, the problem was that detail on the till roll had been deleted due to power cuts; however this had not affected the actual cash received and banked. In relation to R9 - the Town Clerk stated that a safe would be considered for purchase when the Museum re-opens in 2012.

Resolved: that the Internal Audit report be received and noted, and the draft Action Plan approved.

(2) Mission Statement and Objectives 2010-2011

The Town Clerk tabled the Council's Mission Statement and Objectives for 2010-2011. He confirmed that Oxfordshire County Council had stated that funding for the environmental improvements for the area of the Market Place known as the County Hall precincts was available but had to be spent within the 2010-2011 financial year. As the Museum Improvement and Access Project would be taking place during this year Members queried whether the County funding could be rolled over to 2011/12. It was **resolved** that the Town Clerk would contact Oxfordshire County Council to make appropriate enquiries.

The Project & Technical Manager reported that Scottish & Southern Electricity were having difficulty in finding a suitable match of York stone to replace the broken one in the Market Place. It was suggested that a number of York stones, and suitable materials, should be purchased at the same time which could be stored and used for future minor works. It was **resolved** that the Project & Technical Manager would pursue this with a view of getting the situation resolved as soon as possible.

Resolved: that the Mission Statement and Objectives for 2010-2011 be received and noted with the following amendments:

That the lettering under the Council's Objectives should be changed to bullet points.

List of Key Objectives for 2010-2011 - No 2 should read:

To **complete** a scheme to stabilise the War Memorial, and to implement a scheme to improve the area surrounding the Memorial, including the repaving of that area.

(3) Financial Monitoring

The Town Clerk tabled and spoke to his report highlighting that the financial position was much the same as reported since the revised budget agreed in January 2010. At that time there was a small deficit of budgeted expenditure over income estimated for the year amounting to £428; it was anticipated that this would reduce when the year end accounts were compiled. The Council had also agreed to transfer £6,393 to the vehicle renewals account. A further report would be produced for the next meeting of the Finance & General

Committee. He clarified information contained within the new Budget Monitoring Report for March 2010, highlighting that the departments stated were for variances between original and revised budgets for 2009/10 only.

Resolved: that the report be received and noted subject to the following amendments:

Page 3 – Dept 199 should read: Acquisitions

Page 4 – 309 should read: St Nicolas

134A

Exclusion of the public, including the press

Resolved: *That in accordance with section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 (as extended by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972), the public (including the press) be excluded from the meeting because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, as summarised below.*

- Confidential Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 9 March 2010;
- Matters arising;
- Market Place;
- Works depot;
- Property matters;
- Police Community Support Officers;
- Markets and food van, Market Place;
- Civic matters;
- Radley Lakes.

Signed Date