

Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council

Draft Minutes of the Guildhall Committee, held on Tuesday 13th December 2016 at 7.00pm in the Meeting Room, Roysse Court, Abingdon-on-Thames.

Present:

Cllr Dennis Garrett	Chairman
Cllr Mike Badcock	Vice-Chairman
Cllr Samantha Bowring	
Cllr Robert Hall	
Cllr Brian Hedley	

In Attendance

Cllr Margaret Crick
Cllr Vicky Jenkins
Cllr Helen Pighills
Cllr David Pope

Mr Steve Rich	Head of Services/Assistant Town Clerk
Mr Nigel Warner	Town Clerk - Clerk to the meeting
Mrs Susan Whipp	Treasurer/ RFO

Four members of the public.

G28 **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Alice Badcock (ex-officio, Mayor), Neil Fawcett and Jan Morter.

G29 **Declarations of interest**

None.

G30 **Minutes**

Members received and considered the minutes of the meeting of the Guildhall Committee of 9th August 2016.

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting of the Guildhall Committee of 9th August 2016 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

G31 **Matters arising**

None.

G32 **Public participation**

No statements or questions from those present.

G33 **Budget Estimates 2017/18**

The Committee received and considered the report of the Treasurer/ Responsible Financial Officer (RFO), which contained both management accounts for the current year and budget estimates for 2017/18.

It was proposed by Cllr Mike Badcock, seconded by Cllr Brian Hedley and **recommended** that a net revenue budget of £158,539 (the same as for 2016/17) be considered by the Finance and General Purposes Committee for inclusion in the Council's 2017/18 estimates.

The members of the public left the meeting at this point.

G34 **Exclusion of the public, including the press**

The Chairman moved and it was **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.

G35 **Confidential appendix**

The Committee received and considered the confidential appendix to the minutes of the meeting of the Guildhall Committee of 9th August 2016.

Resolved: that the confidential appendix to the minutes of the meeting of the Guildhall Committee of 9th August 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

G36 **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising from the confidential appendix minutes of the previous meeting which were not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

G37 **Guildhall Development Project**

The Committee received and considered the confidential report of the Town Clerk in relation to the above. The report included details of the tenders received

in relation to the Project. Consequently, for reasons of commercial sensitivity, the report and the discussion of the report were treated as confidential because disclosure of matters contained in the report could adversely affect the Council's commercial and financial position.

It was noted that further work was being undertaken and a recommendation regarding the way forward would be made to the full Council on 25th January 2017, following consideration by the Council's Finance and General Purposes on 10th January. It was anticipated that the Council would be in a position to make an announcement following the Council meeting on 25th January.

(Cllr Jeanette Halliday entered the meeting during discussion of this item, it being 7.16pm).

(Cllrs Monica Lovatt and Sandy Lovatt entered the meeting during discussion of this item, it being 7.25pm).

See confidential appendix to the minutes for recommendations.

G38 **Royse Court Gardens**

The Committee received and considered the confidential report of the Town Clerk in relation to the above.

It was **recommended** to the Town Council through the Finance and General Purposes Committee:

- (i) To allocate a budget for the refurbishment and improvement of the Royse Court Gardens, as detailed in the confidential report of the Town Clerk and in particular appendix 1 of the report, this budget to be funded from the Council's Pooled Property Budget. *(Budget figure redacted at this stage for reasons of commercial sensitivity – see confidential appendix to minutes).*
- (ii) That authority be delegated to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee to appoint the necessary professional support for this scheme.
- (iii) That following the advice from the professional employed at (ii) above, to further delegate authority to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Guildhall Committee to agree the specification of works and decide which firms to invite tenders from, including whether to advertise for this opportunity and if so, where to advertise.

The meeting rose at 7.30 pm.