

Malmesbury Town Council

Minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee held in Malmesbury Town Hall on Tuesday 4th April 2017 commencing at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors: R E Budgen, L G Grant, A J Gundry (Chair), W R Jones, S J Poole and F Vandelli

Apologies for absence: Councillors S Cox, V L Penfold and H Webb

In attendance: Councillor C C Doody and four members of the public

Public Question Time: None.

Declarations of Interest: None.

The committee agreed with Councillor Gundry that agenda items 8 and 9 could be taken at the beginning of the meeting to facilitate a request made by a member of the committee.

38. Live Arts at the Town Hall

Councillor Grant presented a detailed report seeking support from the committee to spend in the region of £30,000 to enhance the lighting and sound system in the Assembly Hall to a professional standard.

Considerable debate ensued, the main areas of discussion being the lack of a business case, the need to prioritise expenditure in view of other projects approved. The Chair permitted technical questions to be put to the two members of the public who were present and had assisted in the preparation of the report.

Councillor Budgen proposed that the scheme should be considered by the new Town Council together with other projects and the new council will prioritise new and existing schemes and agrees the level of balances to be expended. Councillor Poole seconded the proposal which was RESOLVED by the committee with two abstentions.

39. Transfer of play areas

Councillor Grant spoke to a report produced by the Town Clerk on the possibility of a seven year lease being granted to the Town Council by Wiltshire Council on the Filands and Newton Grove play areas whilst consideration is given to a community asset transfer. It was proposed by Councillor Grant, seconded by Councillor Budgen and RESOLVED that a seven year lease be negotiated with Wiltshire Council.

40. Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting held on the 8th February 2017 as circulated, be received and adopted.

41. Income and expenditure

The Town Clerk presented the income and expenditure report, previously circulated as Report No.1. The committee noted the report on income and expenditure.

Councillor Grant advised that the cost of Christmas lights would be much higher in 2017 and invited the Town Clerk to comment. The Town Clerk advised on the progress made with the lighting engineer and a company specialising in decorative light displays.

He explained that lights across the High Street may still be possible but considerable work would need to be undertaken and he would bring a full report to the committee when all the facts had been received. Councillor Grant undertook to request the Town Team to notify the Town Clerk about their proposals to use lamp columns to display various banners.

42. Repairs to heating system

The Town Clerk presented a report explaining the failure of the heating pump and providing the two options for replacement. It was proposed by Councillor Grant, seconded by Councillor Poole and RESOLVED that authority be given to the Town Clerk to arrange for the installation of a twin pump, the finances to be taken from reserves as required.

43. Office closure Christmas 2017

The Town Clerk presented a report inviting the committee to consider the closure of the Town Council offices between Christmas and the New Year in 2017 following the experiment last year when no adverse comments were received from the public. He explained the requirement for staff to use the two extra statutory days of their annual leave entitlement but this year the Town Council would need to grant an additional day to enable the closure to take place. It was proposed by Councillor Gundry, seconded by Councillor Jones and RESOLVED that subject to the outcome of negotiations, the offices would close on Friday 22nd December 2017 and re-open on Tuesday 2nd January 2018. The situation to be reviewed on a yearly basis.

44. Electronic payments

The Town Clerk presented his report explaining safeguards to be installed before making arrangements to pay salaries direct into bank accounts and the use of a Town Council debit card. It was proposed by Councillor Grant seconded by Councillor Vandelli and RESOLVED that the controls and limits within the report be adopted.

The meeting closed at 20.20 hrs