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Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, St Ives Town Council, held in the Committee, The Guildhall, St Ives on Thursday 7 July 2016 at 7.00pm

PRESENT

Chairman - Councillor R Tulley
Vice-Chairman – Councillor L Taylor

COUNCILLORS

Andrewes T	Nicholls C
Garrod H	Prior P
Glanville R	Williams T
Mitchell A	

OFFICERS

Town Clerk

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – were received from Councillor J Symons.

F&GP17. MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Chairman signs as a true and correct record the Minutes of the Resources Committee meeting held on 7 June 2016.

F&GP18. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

For decorative lights – will declare an Interest, but will speak as a member of the public in the public speaking section.

F&GP19. DECLARATIONS OF COUNCILLOR AND OFFICER INTERESTS

Councillor Taylor declared an Interest in Minute F&GP.34 (Boardriders) as the town council representative on the West Cornwall LAG, and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item.

Councillor Tulley declared an Interest in Minute F&GP.23 (Decorative Lights), as the town council representative on the Decorative Lights Association, and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item.

F&GP.20 PUBLIC SPEAKING

Mr R Tulley – outlined the background that the town council took on the lights on the basis that another organisation would take ownership. Neither the DLA or BID were now willing to take on the existing lights, but both were working towards a new system that BID was likely to want to take on.

There was a problem with who would take ownership of the existing lights in the meantime. ? Appreciates that the town council needs assurance of safety and so might be worth meeting with

DLA to discuss. This might also enable the seasonal lights application.

F&GP21. TOWN CLERK'S UPDATE REPORT

The Clerk's report circulated prior the meeting was considered. Matters discussed included:

- Request for progress update on approved contractors list
- Grants - questioned timescale between giving grants and the grant money being spent.
- Grants – considered implementing more active monitoring in the future.
- Actions outstanding included direct payments of salaries, laptop for planning, guttering at Market House and banking review
- There was a suggestion that an embargo on new work could be brought in and to ensure that staffing implications were taken into account with any new work / projects agreed.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

F&GP22. FINANCE REPORT

Previous meeting considered April and May finance report, June has yet to be reconciled and so the Clerk gave an undertaking to circulate the June report to Members at a later date

F&GP23. DECORATIVE LIGHTS

Councillor Tulley declared an Interest in this item as the town council representative on the Decorative Lights Association.

Members considered the public speaking earlier in the meeting and the Clerk's report tabled at the meeting.

During discussion the following points were considered: whether the town council should retain the decorative lights and be receptive to considering taking on new lights; the lights as part of the character of the town; the risks and liabilities involved in retaining the lights; balancing the views of those in the town who wish to retain the lights against those who think they should be removed; disappointment that the transfer arrangements had not proved possible; noted the need for catch-up maintenance work to be carried out as the lights had not been properly maintained and inspected before handover to the town council; any records held on the structural and electrical integrity of the system; future funding; whether the length of streets covered should be reviewed; and the need to plan for a mid- to long-term solution.

To inform a decision on the way forward, it was agreed that further discussions with BID and the Decorative Lights Association would be valuable in ascertaining a potential way forward.

RESOLVED – that the council will hold further discussions with BID and the Decorative Lights Association on the future of the decorative lights in St Ives, for report to Council on 28 July if possible.

F&GP.24. CCTV

In line with previous recommendation of Council, a meeting with potential partner organisations was held earlier this week. It had been a productive meeting, with representative from the Police Crime Commission Office, St Ives BID, Police, Pubwatch, Neighbourhood Watch, C4S and town councillors. There had been an offer of £10,000 from St Ives BID and there was potential for support in some form from the PCC in the near future.

During discussion:

- Concern at holding daytime meetings
- Noted previous decision of the Council to implement street marshals when the CCTV had not proved viable
- No decision had been taken at that meeting
- Noted the invitation of the Fire Service for town councillors to visit the control centre at Tolvaddon to view the system in action and allay concerns regarding invasion of privacy
- Noted the various benefits of CCTV cameras – crime detection / prevention, New Years Eve and similar events, investigative, protection of vulnerable people.
- Concerns that a visit to the control centre could give a false impression of support for the case for CCTV in St Ives
- Views also that taking the opportunity to visit the control centre to be able to take all factors into consideration when partner organisations presented the case for CCTV in St Ives in September.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted and that the council will not incur any expenditure on a visit to the control centre.

F&GP.25 **GRANT APPLICATIONS**

The grant application from the Pegasus Awards was considered, with questions raised about whether it was a commercial organisation, if grant was paid to insist that the funds go to the Pegasus Awards CIC, a wish that the 10 participants to benefit should have been referred from the St Ives organisations listed and needed to see the CIC Constitution and accounts information.

RESOLVED – that the grant application be deferred pending further information.

F&GP.26 **TOIL POLICY**

It was noted that the TOIL policy had been agreed in principle at Council, Clerk at a later date to present this encapsulated in a policy document.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

F&GP.27 **GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE - UPDATE**

It was noted that it had been previously agreed that the council would work toward the General Power of Competence. The report was circulated as an update that the Power would need to be achieved before any involvement of the council in the possible devolution of the library.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

F&GP.28 CORRESPONDENCE

None.

F&GP29. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED – that in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meeting) Act 1960 (as extended by s.100 of the Local Government Act 1972), the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following matters on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by virtue of the paragraph specified against the item.

F&GP.30 SALARY REVIEW (Paragraphs 1,2 &3)

It was reported that four members of staff had had their salaries reviewed by an external consultant and that in view of the lack of information available at this meeting, an additional meeting of this committee be

- Impact of living wage – impacting salaries at the lower end of the scale
- Differentials
- Timescales involved in bringing a report to Council
- Needs more time
- Would need too an up to date structure diagram
- Whenever it is decided – it would be backdated

RESOLVED – that this matter be deferred to an additional meeting of this committee to be held on 28 July at 5.30pm. Papers to be posted out by 22 July ready for 28 July meeting.

F&GP.31 REVIEW OF DEVOLUTION PROJECT MANAGER CONTRACT (Paragraphs 1, 2 & 3)

This matter was deferred pending report and further information.

F&GP.32 BUDGET FOR WORKS ON THE ISLAND CENTRE (Paragraph 3)

Members considered the information circulated.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

F&GP.33 BANKING ARRANGEMENTS (Paragraph 3)

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED – that this item be deferred to the next scheduled meeting of this committee.

F&GP.34 **SAINTS BOARD RIDERS – PROPOSED CLUB HOUSE**

Councillors Mitchell and Taylor each declared an Interest in this item as representatives on West Cornwall LAG and so withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item in order not to prejudice their consideration when the application for funding was considered.

Members considered the letter setting out the proposals for a club house development which would incorporate a public conveniences

RESOLVED – that the proposal be supported in principle, without prejudice and on the basis that the public conveniences are included as part of the package, encouraging the group to proceed, and to invite to seek a pre-application meeting with the town council.

F&GP35. **DEBTORS AND CREDITORS REPORT, AND WRITE OFF OF BAD DEBTS** (Paragraph 3)

Members considered the report circulated.

RECOMMENDED – that the report be noted and that the bad debts listed be agreed to be written off.

F&GP36. **UPDATE ON SUB LEASE OF FIRST FLOOR OFFICE, THE ISLAND CENTRE**
(Paragraph 3)

Members considered the report circulated. With regard to the community nature of the latest incoming tenant of the smaller of the first floor offices, it was agreed to offer a renewable lease, and for the town council to cover 50% of its legal fees.

RESOLVED – that the approach as set out above be taken for the smaller first floor office lease.

RESOLVED – also that the letter to the Judo Club be approved as circulated.

Meeting closed at 9.23 pm

Chairman