

**WIRKSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL – TOWN AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
MONDAY 8 JUNE 2009**

TF001/09 Present: Cllr A Clamp (Chairman), D Haspel, I Ratcliffe, M Ratcliffe, C Whittall. In attendance – Mr Steve Jenner (Radio Ashbourne), Cllr F Bark, Mrs J Walls (Town Clerk)

TF002/09 Apologies: Cllr K Frith

TF003/09 Steve Jenner, Radio Ashbourne:

Mr Jenner gave a brief summary of the way in which Ashbourne Radio operates and the programmes it broadcasts. He explained that whilst the name of the station could not be changed, there could be some rebranding of the programmes. Ofcom permission would be necessary to do this, if Wirksworth was to be included in the radio content and the Town Council would therefore be required to indicate their support for the proposal.

Mr Jenner was thanked for attending the meeting, and left at 7.15pm

TF004/09 Members' Interests in Agenda Items:

The following interests were declared:

<i>Cllr</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Personal/ Prejudicial</i>	<i>Reason if any</i>
M Ratcliffe	11 Support for Open Garden Scheme	Personal	
A Clamp	17 Market Stalls	Personal	
I Ratcliffe	20 Railings Waltham House	Personal	

TF005/09 Planning application for railings at Waltham House:

After further consideration of this matter it had been suggested this issue should be given further discussion. The Clerk explained the reasons for the advice from DALC, recommending that the Town Council do not submit the planning application, as the reduction in the planning application fee could be construed as a donation, which was not permissible under s137. A discussion took place on this matter and it was

RECOMM: That on the basis of this discussion and advice from DALC, the Town Council withdraws their agreement to put their name to the planning application, pending any further developments.

Cllr I Ratcliffe left the meeting at 7.40 pm

TF006/09 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting of the Town and Finance Committee dated 11 May 2009 were confirmed as a correct record.

TF007/09 Monthly Balance Sheet & Bank Reconciliation:

The monthly balance sheet and bank reconciliation was circulated for information.

RECOMM: That this be noted.

TF008/09 Monthly Budget Balance:

The monthly budget balance was circulated for information.

RECOMM: That this be noted.

TF009/09 Revised Budget 2009-10:

A revised copy of the budget for 2009-10 was circulated for information. The revision had been necessary once the year-end carry forward figure at 31.03.09 was known.

RECOMM: That the document be received.

TF010/09 Audit:

a) *Internal Auditor's Report* (circulated): The Internal Auditor's report had been circulated to all members, and the Clerk was pleased to report that no items had been brought to the Council's attention.

RECOMM: That the report be noted.

b) *Audit Commission Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2009:*

1. approval of Statement of Accounts (circulated): the Statement of Accounts had now been completed and was ready for signature prior to submission to the Audit Commission;
2. approval of Annual Governance Statement (circulated): the Annual Governance Statement was considered by the Town Council, and completed and signed, prior to submission to the Audit Commission.

RECOMM: That the Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement be signed and submitted to the Audit Commission.

TF011/09 Annual Review of Financial Regulations, including a Review of the Effectiveness of the Internal Audit:

The Council were required to review these documents annually, to ensure they provided adequate protection. The documents were considered, and the Council agreed that they provided adequate protection for the Council for a further 12 months.

RECOMM: That the Council continues to operate within the current Financial Regulations for a further 12 months.

TF012/09 Fidelity Guarantee increase (recommended 50% of current precept plus balance of I & E Account as at 31.03.09) to £205084:

RECOMM: That the Council's fidelity guarantee be increased to £205084 with immediate effect.

TF013/09 Support for Wirksworth Open Garden Event:

Cllr M Ratcliffe reported on the plans for the Wirksworth Open Garden Event to be held this summer, and asked if the Town Council might be able to offer financial support to the event. It was expected that the event would be held annually, once it had been established this year.

RECOMM: That the Town Council makes a donation of £100 towards the setup costs of this community event.

TF014/09 Town Hall/Memorial Hall Improvements – Update:

It was reported that a meeting had been held with the Project Manager earlier in the day, who had been given direction and would be moving the project forward.

RECOMM: That the report be noted.

TF015/09 Request for concessionary letting, Memorial Hall:

A letter had been received, requesting a concessionary letting at the Memorial Hall in September, in order to raise funds for McMillan Cancer Care.

RECOMM: That the Town Council grants the concessionary letting.

TF016/09 Grit Bin Maintenance Contract – Invitations to Tender:

The Clerk reminded Cllrs that it had been agreed that tenders would be sought this year for the maintenance contract for the grit bin maintenance. A draft specification had been prepared, which the Committee considered, and made slight amendments.

RECOMM: That tenders be invited from 3 local contractors, for the maintenance contract of the grit bins.

Cllr Whittall left the meeting at 8.10 pm

TF017/09 Bus Shelter Cleaning:

The Clerk reported that the local window cleaner had ceased to clean the Town Hall windows and the bus shelters. The bus shelters had previously been cleaned quarterly.

RECOMM: That tenders be invited from 3 local contractors, for the cleaning of the bus shelters.

TF018/09 Financial Support for Star Disc Installation, Stoney Wood:

Cllr Clamp reminded Cllrs that permission had been granted for the Star Disc Installation at Stoney Wood, and work was progressing on the project. A request had now been received for funding support for a feasibility study to take the scheme forward.

RECOMM: That the sum of £200 be approved in principle.

TF019/09 Christmas Lighting:

Cllr Haspel reported that the existing Christmas lights had become quite brittle and unreliable, and it was suggested they be replaced with LED lights. He was therefore asking if the Town Council would underwrite £3000 for the replacements, on the assumption that up to £1000 could be donated by traders.

RECOMM: That the Town Council underwrites the lights purchase in the sum of £3000.

TF020/09 Market Stalls:

Cllr Clamp advised that a bid had been placed for funding for the purchase of market stalls for the Farmers' Markets, and Wirksworth had been included in this bid. If successful, it would be necessary to find storage space for the stalls, and she wondered if they could be stored in a trailer at the rear of the Town Hall. A discussion took place on this, and it was felt that there would be some issues of health & safety, as well as access, with this suggestion. However, it was felt that these issues might be able to be overcome.

RECOMM: That the Town Council agrees in principle to the suggestion, subject to difficulties being overcome.

TF021/09 Ashbourne Radio:

Following the presentation by Mr Jenner, Cllrs discussed the matter further.

RECOMM: That the Town Council supports the proposal to incorporate Wirksworth matters into Ashbourne Radio.

TF022/09 Funding for Newsletter:

Cllr M Ratcliffe had produced a draft newsletter for consideration. He explained that the newsletter would take the form of a folded leaflet. A discussion took place on the proposed content, and Cllr Ratcliffe agreed that nothing would be sent to the printer before being approved by the Town Council.

RECOMM: That a sum of £500 be approved for newsletter production, and the Town Council approves the content in advance.

The meeting closed at 8.35 p.m

.....Chairman