

**WIRKSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL – TOWN AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
MONDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2009**

TF131/08 Present: Cllr A Clamp (Chairman), Cllrs K Frith, D Haspel, I Ratcliffe, M Ratcliffe, C Whittall. In attendance – Cllr S Maskrey, Cllr A Pollock, Mrs J Walls (Town Clerk).

TF132/08 Apologies:

Cllr F Bark.

TF133/08 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>
Cllr I Ratcliffe Cllr A Pollock	6 : Concessionary letting	Personal	

TF134/08 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting of the Town and Finance Committee dated 12 January 2009 were confirmed as a correct record.

TF135/08 Monthly Balance Sheet & Bank Reconciliation:

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

RECOMM: That this be noted.

TF136/08 Monthly Budget Balance:

The monthly budget balance was circulated for information.

RECOMM: That this be noted.

TF137/08 Request for Concessionary Letting:

A request had been received from the Shoestring Players who are holding a production at the Town Hall later in the month. All proceeds will be given to Waltham House, towards the cost of the respite accommodation, and a concessionary letting is therefore being requested for the performances and dress rehearsal.

RECOMM: That a concessionary letting be granted for the dates of the performances and dress rehearsal.

TF138/08 Termination of Lease of Therapy Rooms:

The current tenant of the Therapy Rooms has given notice to terminate the lease from 8 February 2009. The tenant was willing to sell the furnishings if the Council

or a new tenant were interested. It had been suggested that until the rooms are relet, the Council may wish to consider letting out the rooms on an hourly basis, to other therapists.

RECOMM: That the accommodation be advertised, and a decision regarding the furnishings be delayed for a 3-month period.

TF139/08 Asbestos Policy:

Cllrs were reminded that whilst asbestos surveys had been carried out at the Town Hall and Memorial Hall, the Town Council did not have an official asbestos policy. The Clerk had therefore produced a draft document for approval and adoption, which had been circulated to all members.

RECOMM: That the policy be adopted.

TF140/08 Request for Financial Assistance – Steeple Grange Light Railway:

A request had been received from Steeple Grange Light Railway, for financial assistance with their visitor guide. In previous years, a donation of £75 had been made.

RECOMM: That a donation of £75 be made to Steeple Grange Light Railway.

TF141/08 Town Hall/Memorial Hall Improvements – Update:

It was reported that a meeting of the sub group had been held earlier in the day, when an action list had been revised, and items of improvement prioritised. It was expected that tenders would be invited for some of the work in the near future, and the Committee would be kept updated.

RECOMM: That the report be noted.

TF142/08 Energy Audit:

Following last month's meeting, the Clerk had contacted DCC regarding energy audits at the Town Hall & Memorial Hall. DCC had apologised that their original email had been somewhat misleading, and the Clerk could now confirm that the cost of an energy audit at each building was likely to be in the region of £400-£500. However, she reminded Cllrs that although it was not currently a requirement to have an energy audit carried out, the Council would be required to provide energy audit information by the year 2010 for both the Town Hall and the Memorial Hall.

RECOMM: That energy audits be commissioned from DCC for both the Town Hall and Memorial Hall.

TF143/08 Concessionary Lettings Policy:

Cllrs had been sent a draft concessionary lettings policy prepared by Cllr M Ratcliffe and the Clerk, for approval. A discussion took place on the contents, and it was agreed that some slight amendments were needed.

RECOMM: That the amendments be added, and the policy adopted.

TF144/08 Fairtrade Status:

Cllr I Ratcliffe was pleased to report that the town had now been granted Fairtrade status. A day of celebrations was planned for 7 March, which would coincide with the next Farmers' Market, and details of the various celebrations were given. The Fairtrade Group were seeking financial assistance from the Town Council towards the cost of these celebrations.

RECOMM: That a donation of up to £250 be agreed.

TF145/08 Road Sign Derby Road:

Cllr M Ratcliffe had now received a revised draft of the proposed road sign for Derby Road, to replace the one previously damaged, together with costings. It was hoped that the sign would be in place for the Fairtrade celebration day. In answer to a query, it was stated that it was the intention to replace other welcome signs in the near future. Cllrs were reminded that it had been agreed to ask DCC to locate the sign in an alternative spot and Cllrs Frith and M Ratcliffe would liaise with DCC officers.

RECOMM: That purchase of the sign, and erection costs, be approved.

TF146/08 Grit Bins:

Members were advised that the Environment & Planning Committee had passed this matter to the Town & Finance Committee for consideration, in view of the timescale involved if the matter were to wait until next month. It had been recommended that the Clerk would discuss revised costings with the local contractor, on the basis that the bins would remain in situ all year round, and she would also seek information from DCC regarding financial support for the provision of further bins. Cllrs Pollock and M Ratcliffe had carried out a survey of existing provision, and recommended that a further 6 bins be provided by the Town Council, to be located at:

- a) Copse Close/Yokecliffe Drive corner
- b) Snowfield estate
- c) Oak Hill (police house courtyard)
- d) Yokecliffe Avenue (corner where path leads to playground)
- e) Recreation Road/Stafford Crescent junction
- f) Barmote/Chapel Lane junction

Cllr Whittall felt it was important to set out the criteria under which the Town Council might consider any future requests for parish grit bins, as it was likely that further requests could be received in the future.

A discussion took place on the contract for the filling of the bins, and the Clerk had spoken to the local contractor in this connection. Options were considered, and it was felt that the Town Council should prepare a specification and invite tenders for the next winter period. The Clerk advised that this year, whilst the contract had been awarded to DCC, the office had been inundated with calls of

complaint from residents, and that the bins had been filled reactively – ie when office staff had telephoned to request a fill. In the previous five years, no complaints had been received with regard to the grit bin service, as the contractor was proactive in his approach, ensuring bins were serviced immediately prior to or following forecasted bad weather. She was concerned that if future service did not match previous service, the office would again bear the brunt of the problem. She therefore urged Cllrs to think carefully before changing the contractor once again.

RECOMM:

- a) That the purchase of an additional six gritbins, to be sited at the above locations, be authorised;
- b) That a specification be prepared for the servicing of grit bins for next year, and tenders be invited.

TF147/08 Exclusion of Public & Press:

RECOMM: That in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be excluded from the meeting, as publicity to the matters under discussion would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

TF148/08 Application to Join DCC Pension Scheme:

Cllrs were reminded that the Caretaker at the Memorial Hall had now been in service just over 6 months, and had requested permission to join the DCC Pension Scheme.

RECOMM: That the Caretaker at the Memorial Hall be granted permission to join the DCC Pension Scheme.

The meeting closed at 740 p.m

.....Chairman