

WIRKSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL – TOWN AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
MONDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2009

TF035/09 Present: Cllr A Clamp (Chairman), D Haspel, A Pollock, I Ratcliffe, M Ratcliffe, C Whittall. In attendance – Cllrs F Bark, Cllr S Maskrey, Members of the Bolehill Improvement Group, Mrs J Walls (Town Clerk).

TF036/09 Apologies: Cllr K Frith.

TF037/09 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>
A Pollock I Ratcliffe	7 – Donation Big Green Day	Personal	

TF038/09 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting of the Town and Finance Committee dated 13 July 2009 were confirmed as a correct record.

TF039/09 Monthly Balance Sheet & Bank Reconciliation:

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

RECOMM: That this be noted.

TF040/09 Monthly Budget Balance:

The monthly budget balance was circulated for information.

RECOMM: That this be noted.

TF041/09 Open Forum – Bolehill Improvement Group:

Cllr Clamp introduced the Bolehill Improvement Group representatives to the meeting. The representatives outlined the proposal to provide a car parking area at Bolehill, and the present position with the funding, and asked whether the Town Council would be prepared to provide the shortfall in funding.

TF042/09 Request for funding – Bolehill Improvement Group:

Cllrs considered the request from the Bolehill Improvement Group (BIG) for funding towards the cost of the provision of a car parking area in Bolehill. Originally the District Council had operated a funding scheme whereby £10,000 would be available, in two stages, to fund the purchase and development of a car parking area if the parish council would take over responsibility for future maintenance. BIG had therefore made application for this grant, having identified a suitable piece of land for sale. The total cost of the project is £12,100.

However, the DDDC scheme was now to terminate on 31 March 2010, and therefore BIG would only be able to secure £5000 from the District Council, which, they had been advised, could not be used for land purchase. Some other funding had been obtained, but BIG were asking the Town Council to fund the shortfall of £5750.

A discussion took place on the proposals, which were designed to allow better access for emergency vehicles, which have on occasions found it impossible to progress through the area. It was felt that further information was needed in relation to oncosts – insurance, maintenance, inspection and supervision, but that the scheme should be supported.

RECOMM: That the Town Council agree in principle to allocate £5750 to the scheme, subject to clarification of insurance issues and the conditions of the DDDC grant, and that a planning application be submitted as soon as possible.

TF043/09 Outdoor Music in Wirksworth:

An email had been received from Outdoor Music in Wirksworth, seeking support from the Town Council by way of grant and membership of the organisation. A discussion took place on this issue and it was agreed that whilst the Town Council could not become members of this company, they would recommend that Cllr David Brown represents the Town Council. Cllrs felt that the organisation provided a valuable service in the town, and agreed to make a financial contribution.

RECOMM: That Cllr Brown's name be put forward as a representative of the Town Council, and that a letter of appreciation and a donation of £175 be sent.

TF044/09 Request for Donation – Big Green Day:

Cllr M Ratcliffe reported on this event, and the activities which were to take place, and he asked that the Town Council provides prizes for the Junior Fancy Dress competition.

RECOMM: That the Town Council agrees to provide prizes for the Junior Fancy Dress competition, up to a maximum of £50.

TF045/09 Request for Donation – BM & W Band:

A request has been received from the Secretary of the BM & W Band, for a donation towards their organisation. In previous years a donation of £200 has been made.

RECOMM: That a donation of £200 be made to the BM & W Band this year.

TF046/09 Town Hall/Memorial Hall Improvements – Update:

It was reported that quotations had now been received for the improvement work to the Main Hall, and the EMDA bid could now be submitted. Plans had also been drawn up for proposed improvements to the kitchen and Club Room, and it was reported that the facade work would commence in March/April next year, to be followed by painting of the windows.

RECOMM: That the report be noted.

TF047/09 VAT Implications for Improvements:

The Clerk had recently attended a VAT training course, and was keen to clarify the situation with regard to the claiming back of VAT on the major improvement works. She suggested that assistance be sought from either DDDC or DCC, to ascertain the level of VAT that could be claimed back, before committing to all of the proposed work.

RECOMM: That assistance be sought from DCC, and that delegated powers be granted to the Mayor, Deputy & Chair, to authorise the payment of a fee to DCC for advice if necessary.

TF048/09 Request to place plaque in Memorial Gardens:

A request had been received from a local resident, enquiring whether the Town Council would agree to the erection of a plaque in memory of a gentleman who was involved in the construction of the Memorial Gardens. A discussion took place on this matter, and concerns were raised as to whether a precedent could be set in granting this request. However, as the gentleman in question had been involved in the construction, it was felt that it would be appropriate to agree to this request.

RECOMM: That permission be granted for the erection of a plaque, to be designed on similar lines to one already in place in the Memorial Gardens, and that it be placed near to the foot of the rocks, and if possible, unveiled at the Peace Ceremony in December.

Cllr I Ratcliffe left the meeting at 7.55pm

TF049/09 Grit Bins:

Cllrs were reminded that a further 6 locations for grit bins had been identified and it had been hoped that these would be forthcoming under a DCC scheme to provide the bin free of charge, with an initial fill, if the parish council took over responsibility for the bin in the future. However, it would appear that the scheme is limited, and it is unlikely that Wirksworth would receive all 6 bins under this scheme. It is therefore suggested that authority be granted to purchase those bins within the total 6 that DCC are unable to provide. The current cost of a bin with initial fill is £252.06.

RECOMM:

- a) That an application be submitted to DCC for 5 bins under the DCC scheme, and the Town Council purchases any bins within the total of 5 that the DCC are unable to scheme;
- b) That the additional bins be purchased at a competitive price, and authority be granted for these to be purchased using a personal credit card, with reimbursement by the Town Council.

TF050/09 Car Parking:

Cllr M Ratcliffe drew attention to complaints he had received relating to car parking issues in the town, and the effect on trade. A discussion took place on this matter, and it was agreed that there would be some benefit in holding a meeting with traders, DDDC and DCC parking representatives and Town Councillors, to explore these concerns, and look at any possible alleviation measures.

RECOMM: That Cllr M Ratcliffe arranges a meeting as outlined above.

The meeting closed at 8.15 p.m

.....Chairman