

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

TF062/09 Present: Cllr A Clamp (Chairman), Cllrs K Frith, A Pollock, I Ratcliffe, M Ratcliffe, C Whittall. In attendance – Cllrs F Bark, D Brown, Mrs J Walls (Town Clerk).

TF063/09 Apologies: Cllr D Haspel.

TF064/09 Members' Interests in Agenda Items:

None declared.

TF065/09 Minutes:

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

TF066/09 Monthly Balance Sheet & Bank Reconciliation:

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

RECOMM: That this be noted.

TF067/09 Monthly Budget Balance:

The monthly budget balance was circulated for information.

RECOMM: That this be noted.

TF068/09 Finalisation of budget 2010-11, and precept figure

Cllrs had been issued with a revised draft budget, with a simplified format, and which would produce a precept figure of £114,327. In view of the increase in band D properties in the last 12 months, this precept figure would represent a 0% increase in actual cost to residents. A discussion took place, and it was suggested that regular commitments to maintenance should also be included. Thanks were extended to the Chair, Cllr Haspel and the Clerk for producing the revised budget.

RECOMM: That the revised budget (attached) be approved, and a precept figure of £114,327 be agreed.

TF069/09 Completion of Annual Audit:

The Clerk had now received the completed audit annual return for the year 2008-9, copies of which had been circulated to all members. Whilst no matters had come to the auditor's attention, attention was drawn to the fact that the Internal Auditor did not appear to be aware that the Town Council were the Trustees of the Wirksworth Memorial Foundation.

RECOMM: That the completed return be noted, and the Clerk asked to update the Internal Auditor on the position with regard to the Memorial Foundation.

TF070/09 Town Hall/Memorial Hall Improvements – Update:

Cllr Clamp gave an update on the present position, and was pleased to report that the Town Council had been successful in securing a £15,000 Market Towns Grant towards staging. The Chair was congratulated on securing this funding. An offer of help had been accepted with regard to consideration of received quotations. A discussion took place on electrical matters at both the Town Hall & Memorial Hall. Cllr Clamp reported on plans which had been prepared for improvements to the kitchen/Club Room area, although at the present time funding was not available for this work. The Clerk was currently investigating the possibility of grant funding for improvements to the central heating system at the Town Hall (estimated cost £24,000).

RECOMM: That the report be noted.

TF071/09 Christmas Lights Review:

Cllr M Ratcliffe reported that he had been asked by a fellow Cllr to raise the issue of Christmas lighting. A suggestion had been put forward that the Council raises the Christmas lighting budget, and other sources of funding had been identified, including possible overbudgeted areas. It was understood that a substantial amount of money had been pledged as donations from the businesses in the town. A discussion took place on this matter and concern was expressed that the Town Council were being pressed into making a hasty decision, without full information. Councillors considered the procedure to be followed when placing orders for goods for the Town Council, and concern was also expressed that this procedure may have been compromised.

RECOMM:

- a) That as the Christmas lighting budget of £2500 is already overspent with a previous order this year, and insufficient information has been supplied with regard to the need for the additional expenditure and the amount of income from donations, the Committee cannot make a decision at this time with regard to a request for further funding;
- b) That the source of funding for unbudgeted items from the Council's budget will be decided by Committee, and not individual Cllrs;
- c) That in view of the repeated breach in protocol with regard to the placing of Town Council orders, a letter of censure be sent, pointing out the procedure for the placing of all Town Council orders.

Cllr Bark left at 7.45 pm

TF072/09 Bolehill Car Park – Tenders Received:

The closing date for the receipt of tenders had now passed, and these were submitted to the Committee for consideration.

RECOMM: That subject to scrutiny by the Chair, Mayor, Cllr Brown and the Clerk, the lowest tender(s) be accepted.

Cllr Whittall left at 8.05 pm

TF073/09 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.

TF074/09 Memorial Hall Tenancies:

A discussion took place on this matter.

RECOMM That a discussion should take place with DCC.

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m

.....Chairman