

WIRKSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL – TOWN AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
MONDAY 12 JULY 2010

TF020/10 Present: Cllr A Clamp (Chairman) Cllrs K Frith, D Haspel, I Ratcliffe, C Whittall.
In attendance – Cllrs F Bark, S Maskrey, M Ratcliffe, Mrs J Walls (Town Clerk).

TF021/10 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting of the Town and Finance Committee dated 14 June 2010 were confirmed as a correct record.

TF022/10 Monthly Balance Sheet & Bank Reconciliation:

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

RECOMM: That this be noted.

TF023/10 Monthly Budget Balance:

The monthly budget balance was circulated for information.

RECOMM: That this be noted.

**TF024/10 Planning & Environment Recommendations to Full Council:
Request for Dog Waste Bins – Hannages Footpaths:**

An email had been received from the Trustees of the Anthony Gell School Trustees asking the Town Council to provide 5 additional dog waste bins along the Hannages footpaths. There are currently 3 existing dog waste bins on these footpaths. Dog waste bins are paid for by the parish council, at a cost of £150 each, and then maintained by the District Council.

However, due to budgetary constraints, the Planning & Environment Committee had recommended that 2 dog waste bins be ordered for the Hannages footpaths, and paid for by the Town Council. The total cost would be approximately £300.

RECOMM: That the expenditure be approved.

TF025/10 Town Hall/Memorial Hall Improvements – Update:

It was reported that a meeting had been held with the Project Manager earlier in the day, for an update on progress. The facade repair work was under way, the stage had been removed, and some electrical work carried out. However, some additional matters had arisen, which required further expenditure, ie a further 3 metres of cill needed replacement, at a cost of £2250, wire for bird-proofing the Clock Tower would cost £2495, plus £500 to clean away existing guano, and the ambient lighting in the Main Hall was likely to exceed the budget figure by a further £2000.

Attention was drawn to the desirability of providing covers for the curtain clusters, in a colour to match the wall decoration, to minimise the impact of the blackout curtains, and costs were being obtained. The existing window curtains were in poor condition, and it was felt that a price for replacement should be sought.

Based on previous quotations, it was requested that up to £3000 be approved for curtain replacement, with some delegation being granted to the Mayor and Chair, should costs exceed this.

Members were reminded that Festival had been unable to contribute directly towards the cost of the clamps needed to utilise the staging as tiered seating; however, they were happy to pledge a minimum of £500 from the proceeds of events, and it was therefore suggested the Town Council underwrite the cost of provision of the clamps, up to a maximum of £4000, subject to funding being available from the budget.

Improvements to the kitchen and supply of new equipment were discussed, and it was felt that a refurbishment of the existing kitchen rather than a redevelopment, to include the Club Room and corridor, may not be the best option. Cllrs Haspel and I Ratcliffe were investigating this further.

RECOMM:

- a) That a further £7245 be released to cover the additional facade work and ambient lighting (£5000 from capital contingency, £2245 from unallocated budget);
- b) That up to £3000 (from unallocated budget) be approved for curtain replacement, with delegation granted to Mayor and Chair, should this figure need adjusting;
- c) That the Town Council underwrites £4000 (from unallocated budget) to cover the cost of clamps, subject to receipt of funding from Festival events;
- d) That the improvements to the kitchen be put on hold for the time being, whilst refurbishment or redevelopment issues are considered.

TF026/10 Update on negotiations for lease, and consideration of proposals put forward:

It was reported that negotiations with regard to the rental value of the property were progressing, and discussions had been taking place with regard to community use. It was hoped that agreement could be reached on a mutually acceptable rent level, and it was felt that discussions with Surestart Managers could facilitate agreement on community use, which would need to be guaranteed, and at an acceptable hire charge.

Staffing issues were discussed and it was felt that these could be resolved in an acceptable way.

RECOMM:

- a) That the Council's negotiator be advised of the minimum acceptable rental figure;
- b) That community use be agreed with Surestart Managers, on the basis that hire charges will be acceptable;
- c) That staffing matters be brought back to Committee in September, when the outcome of the lease negotiations is known.

TF027/10 Rent Arrears:

It was reported that despite promises of payment, the rent arrears at the Memorial Hall have not been paid.

RECOMM: That a further letter be sent, requesting payment of the outstanding arrears, and the matter be reviewed in September.

TF028/10 Wirksworth Heritage Centre – Grant:

A letter had been received from the Trustees of the Wirksworth Heritage Centre, asking the Town Council if they are able to make a grant towards the running costs of the Heritage Centre this year. Cllrs were reminded that an amount had been included in the budget, in the sum of £1060.

RECOMM: That a grant of £1060 be made to the Wirksworth Heritage Centre this year.

TF029/10 Star Disc Project, Stoney Wood:

A request had been received for Town Council support for the Star Disc Project, in the sum of £2000. A discussion took place on the maintenance and insurance issues connected with the installation of the Star Disc Project.

RECOMM:

- a) That the Town Council agree to underwrite £2000 (from unallocated budget) on the basis of funding being secured;
- b) That the Town Council agree to host the Star Disc at Stoney Wood, and agree to insure the Star Disc on a public liability basis only;
- c) That the Town Council's insurers be asked to provide a quotation for asset insurance for the Star Disc.

The meeting closed at 8.05 p.m

.....Chairman