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WISBECH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee (F&GP) held on Monday 19 April 2010 at 6.30 pm

Public Participation: The Meeting opened for public participation at 6.30 pm. As there were no members of the public wishing to speak, the meeting commenced at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT: Cllr Mrs Lawrence; Cllr Green in the Chair; and Cllrs Mrs Cox; O'Dell; Oliver; Meekins; Wegg, and Wright.

In attendance: Erbie Murat Town Clerk, and Clerk to the meeting; and Cllrs Fulcher and Hill. Cllr Mrs Jolley and Miss Hoy were in attendance from 7.00pm.

51. Apologies

There were apologies from Cllr Farmer – work commitments

On a proposal from Cllr O'Dell and seconded by Cllr Oliver the above absence was APPROVED.

52. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

53. Minutes

Members NOTED the Minutes of the meeting of this Committee held on Monday 8 March 2010 at 7.30 pm (previously circulated), as agreed by Town Council on 22 March 2010.

54. Freedom for Jody Cundy

Members NOTED that an extraordinary meeting of the Full Council of Wisbech Town Council will be called to formally bestow the Freedom of the Town of Wisbech on Jody Cundy on Thursday 20 May 2010 at 7.30pm in the Council Chamber.

This is to enable Fenland District Council to invite Jody Cundy to a swimming event at the Hudson Leisure Centre at 6.00pm that evening. The Leisure Centre management have undertaken to ensure Jody arrives at the Council Chamber for 7.30 pm. Members have been invited to look around the new developments at the Hudson from 5pm and to stay for the swimming gala at 6.00pm.

The extraordinary meeting will be followed by a reception to which the Town Council will be able to accommodate up to 60 guests (inclusive of Town Councillors and their spouses/partners).

55. Wisbech Youth Council Grant Application to Fenland District Council (FDC)

Members NOTED that the Clerk has had a meeting with FDC's Tourism Officer and agreed all necessary actions to facilitate the release of the grant monies from FDC for Wisbech Youth Council, and the two Music festivals.

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56. Allotments

Members NOTED that the contracts are signed and exchanged and the agreed amount has been deposited in the saver account of the Town Council, which will contribute to this Council's reserves. Members further NOTED that the Council's formal offer has been accepted for the additional piece of allotment land and the Council's solicitor has been instructed appropriately.

57. Quarterly accounts – 1 January to 31 March 2010

On a proposal from Cllr Oliver and seconded by Cllr O'Dell members APPROVED the quarterly accounts for the year end, and the receipts and payments for the period (attached).

On a proposal from Cllr Oliver and seconded by Cllr O'Dell members AGREED to allocate all surpluses from receipts to Reserves maintained in the Council's Saver Account. This will accrue to a total of £90,443.01 as we go into the new financial year, which is on target for achieving our target of 6 months operating costs in reserves as a minimum.

On a proposal from Cllr Oliver and seconded by Cllr O'Dell members AGREED to maintain a level of £90,000 in reserves subject to emergency funding requirements.

Members NOTED that spending above precept was £13,902.43 (paid for from additional receipts). This is accounted for by the following:

New Wisbech Town Plaques	£1259.74
Allotments emergency works and maintenance	£5697.88
Central Plinth for Christmas Tree	£3562.49
Emergency work to windows and ceiling	£3205.26
TOTAL	£13,724.98

This means that the spending of surplus receipts above precept is accounted for by non-recurring, agreed and controlled expenditure.

It also means that a little over £26,000 of surplus receipts is to be allocated to the Council's reserves in the Saver Account.

On a proposal from Cllr Oliver and seconded by Cllr O'Dell members AGREED the accounts, and AGREED that the Chairman proposes acceptance of the accounts to the meeting of the Full Town Council due to begin at 7.30 pm

58. End of Year Audit

Members NOTED that the Council must prepare its end of year accounts for Audit purposes by 1 June 2010, and that the accounts are open to public scrutiny from 15 April 2010. John Smith, the internal auditor, has the accounts to check.

59. Council committees

Members NOTED that Civic Amenities Committee is now the committee responsible for the Mayors Charity fund, and also for organising all the events. On a proposal from Cllr Oliver and seconded by Cllr Meekins it was AGREED that Civic Amenities Committee is formalised as a main committee of the Council, and to include it on the meetings list at the Annual meeting.

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On a proposal from Cllr O'Dell and seconded by Cllr Oliver it was AGREED that the Civic Amenities Committee will be responsible for reviewing protocol and procedures for all civic matters, and on a proposal from Cllr Oliver and seconded by Cllr Wright it was AGREED to refer the review of the Civic Handbook to the Civic Amenities Committee to obviate the need to set up a separate working party.

On a proposal from Cllr Oliver and seconded by Cllr O'Dell it was AGREED that the Chairman proposes acceptance of the above recommendations regarding Civic Amenities Committee at the meeting of the Full Town Council due to begin at 7.30 pm.

On a proposal from Cllr Oliver and seconded by Cllr Meekins it was AGREED that the Allotments Committee be re-constituted with specific responsibility to manage the income from allotments in their entirety (ring fenced) – with £2,000 towards the Allotment Inspector's salary, and £4,500 as an annual maintenance allocation. Members NOTED that all other on-costs (such as the time spent by the Deputy Clerk) will still be borne from the precept.

On a proposal from Cllr Oliver and seconded by Cllr O'Dell it was AGREED that the Chairman proposes acceptance of the above recommendations regarding Allotments Committee at the meeting of the Full Town Council due to begin at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 7.15 pm

Signed



Dated