

Minutes of the Okehampton Town Council Policy and Resources Committee
Meeting held on Monday 25 November 2013 in the Council Chamber,
Town Hall, Okehampton at 7.00 pm

Committee Members Present: Councillor Mrs M McDonald (Chair)
Councillor T Cummings (Vice Chair)
Councillor C Letchford
Councillor M Davies (Town Mayor)
Councillor A Leech (Chair, Planning)
Councillor Mrs J Goffey (Chair, Property)
Councillor Mrs C Marsh (Chair, Parks)

Other Members Present:

In Attendance: Mrs J Gillard (Deputising for Town Clerk)

Declarations of Interest: Councillor Mrs C Marsh declared an interest in item 8(iii) and 8(vi). Councillor M Davies advised a personal interest in item 8(ii) as he was president.

- 315. Apologies for Absence** - Apologies for absence were presented on behalf of Councillor K Ball.
- 316. Deferment of Business** (for comment by the public) - There were no comments raised by members of the public present.
- 317. Members' Questions** - Councillor A Leech proposed that the Planning Committee be authorised to purchase use of the GIS online mapping system up to a maximum cost of £100 (exact cost not known at this stage) seconded by Councillor Mrs M McDonald, all Councillors in favour.
- 318. Minutes** - The minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on Monday 28 October 2013 were approved and signed by the Chairman on the proposition of Councillor T Cummings and seconded by Councillor M Davies.
- 319. Davidsons Independent Financial Advisors** - Mr Mark Brumham in attendance due to the absence of Mr S Weald. Mr Brumham explained that the M & G Investment was taken out in 1990 in two separate funds, £20,000 invested in the Charibond was now valued at £46,000 and the £20,000 invested in the Charifund was now valued at £27,000, he recommended both should be reviewed as one now not performing effectively and there were a high level of funds in the other one. After discussion on the different levels of risk that could be taken and the resulting potential rewards, it was proposed by Councillor M Davies that a recommendation be put to the trustees of the Simmons Charity to review these investments with a view to re-investment within the moderate risk category, seconded by Councillor Mrs M McDonald, all Councillors in favour. It was also agreed that following completion of budget setting for the coming year, further funds could be invested at that time.

320. Matters Arising -

320.1 Town Council Website - The Acting Clerk advised further progress had been made and it was hoped that the new website would go live later this week.

321. Finances - The accounts as at 31 October 2013 were accepted on the proposal of Councillor Mrs C Marsh, seconded by Councillor M Davies.

322. Grant Aid -

- (i) Age Concern Okehampton and Torridge - Resolved to award £400 proposed by Councillor T Cummings, seconded by Councillor A Leech.
- (ii) Okehampton Friendly Circle - Proposed by Councillor M Davies to award £160, seconded by Councillor A Leech. Councillor Mrs M McDonald proposed an amendment to award £80, this was not seconded. Vote taken on original proposal, 2 in favour, 4 against, 1 abstention, no funds therefore awarded.
- (iii) Chamber of Trade - £2,000 requested, but above maximum amount of grants awarded. Proposed by Councillor T Cummings to award £500, seconded by Councillor Mrs J Goffey, all Councillors in favour with the exception of 1 abstention.
- (iv) Okehampton Running Bugs - Agreed to request further information on the constitution, set up, bank details etc of the organisation and defer decision until next meeting.
- (v) Victim Support - Agreed to request more information on costing of training and number of people supported in the Okehampton area, defer decision until next meeting.
- (vi) Parks Committee - Agreed that funding for the move and refurbishment of telephone kiosk should be included in Council budget for coming year.

323. Community Asset Register - It was suggested by Councillor A Leech that applications for the listing of buildings such as the Ockment Centre, the Old Mill Site and the Plume of Feathers could be considered. Proposed by Councillor Mrs M McDonald and seconded by Councillor Mrs J Goffey to let Councillor Leech look into this further and return to next meeting with details of the process required to undertake this.

324. Members' Reports -

- (i) Link Committee - meeting planned this week.
- (ii) DAPC - no report.
- (iii) Liaison - meeting 2 December.
- (iv) Okehampton College Community Forum - Councillor Leech advised setting up of Trust ongoing.
- (v) CAB - Councillor Leech advised street collections had recently taken place. OTIS were making presentation of the two lottery bids in Barnstaple shortly and that three part-time posts were now in place for this service.
- (vi) Fairtrade - meeting due in January.
- (vii) Community Transport - no report.

PART TWO ITEMS

It was resolved that under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item as it involves the likely disclosure of sensitive and confidential information. Proposed by Councillor A Leech and seconded by Councillor T Cummings.

325. Staffing Matters

Meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Councillor Mrs M McDonald
Chairman