

MARLBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

FINANCE AND POLICY

Minutes of the meeting of the **Finance and Policy Committee** held on the **30th January, 2012** in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Marlborough at 7.20 pm**

PRESENT	Councillor A. Ross Councillor A. Kirk Wilson Councillor N. Fogg Councillor R. Pitts Councillor Mrs P. Dow Councillor G. Francis	Chairman Town Mayor
ALSO PRESENT	Mr. Derek Wolfe Mrs Sue Fry Councillor B. Castle Councillor Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson Councillor S. Dobson Councillor Mrs M. Rose Councillor N. Barrett-Morton	Town Clerk Office Manager Observing Observing Observing Observing Observing
	Mrs V. Compton Mr. G. Isaaman	Adviser Marlborough News Online

446/11 APOLOGIES

Councillor Loosmore sent an apology stating that he would be attending but would be late.

447/11 DECLARATION(S) OF INTEREST

Councillor A. Ross – Agenda Item 7(c) Grants – on the grounds that he is Chairman of the Sports Forum.

448/11 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Chairman's Announcements.

449/11 MINUTES

RESOLVED: unanimously that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 19th December, 2012 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

450/11

ISSUES ARISING OUT OF PRECEPT

The Committee considered budgetary and other issues arising out of the Precept for 2012/2013. The Chairman stated that there are 3 main items of expenditure issues that members should be aware of for next year.

Tourist Information Centre – this will occur during 2012/2013, but there is no budget head for this so expenditure will have to be drawn from reserves.

C.C.T.V. – this may not fall in to this years budget, again there is no budget head so expenditure will have to be from reserves.

Flood Alleviation Scheme – this is a project we are committed to for which there is funding in the Amenities and Open Spaces Projects budget. The Open Spaces Project budget for 2012/2013 is £6,000 for the Flood Alleviation Scheme and £15,000 for other projects. Any shortfall may have to be funded via some kind of loan, as the total expenditure could be up to £36,000.

451/11

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

The Committee considered proposals for a Tourist Information Centre. It was proposed by Councillor A. Ross, seconded by Councillor R. Pitts and –

RESOLVED: unanimously that Standing Orders be suspended at 7.27 pm to allow Mrs Compton to speak.

(Councillor G. Loosmore arrived at 7.31 pm.)

Mrs Compton presented her paper regarding the provision of a leaflet for tourist information in the town (copy attached). It was proposed by Councillor A. Ross, seconded by Councillor R. Pitts and –

RESOLVED: unanimously that Standing Orders be reinstated at 7.40 pm

The following points were raised –

A leaflet needs to be produced as soon as possible, free of charge to clients.

Marlborough Area Development Trust should be approached to project manage the production of this leaflet.

Funding needed to be allocated and that this is kept under the remit of this Council. There was also some discussion about the production of an Official Town Guide. It was felt that whilst such an initiative, paid for via advertising in the Guide, was beneficial in the longer term, action needed to be taken now, hence the proposed leaflets.

RESOLVED: unanimously that up to £5,000 be allocated to fund this project but that the project stays within the remit of the Town Council and that MADT be approached to project manage the production of this leaflet.

452/11

GRANTS

The Chairman informed the committee that £2,600 remained in the budget for allocation this year. The Committee considered the following requests for grants –

a) Alice Stevens – the Town Clerk advised that in accordance with the terms of S.137 of the LGA 1972 applications by individuals cannot be considered by the Council, but that this request could be referred to one of the charitable trusts under the control of the Council.

b) Manton Village Hall – seeking a grant of £1,000.

Councillor A. Ross left the room at 8.07 pm and Councillor G. Loosmore took the Chair.

c) Marlborough Sports Forum – the Committee considered a paper submitted by the Marlborough Sports Forum.

Councillors commented that Kennet Home Start and KVAT Theatre and School Project might benefit from a grant but would only be considered if application forms were received.

RESOLVED: (1) that no award be made to Alice Stevens for the reasons set out above
(2) that £1,000 be awarded to Manton Village Hall
(3) that £1,000 be awarded to the Sports Forum

Councillor A. Ross returned to the room at 8.14pm and resumed the Chair.
453/11 **ACCOUNTS**

The Town Clerk advised that the accounts should be examined in more detail following the completion of month 10.

RESOLVED: unanimously that the accounts for the year to December, 2011 be noted.

454/11

INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

RESOLVED: that the contents of interim audit report be received and noted

455/11

MARLBOROUGH PARISH MEETING – DRAFT STANDING ORDERS

The Committee considered the draft Standing Orders relating to Parish Meetings, which had been drafted by the former Town Clerk. The recently appointed Town Clerk advised that the Town Council had no authority to prescribe Standing Orders purporting to regulate the business of Parish and Town Meetings, which were constitutionally quite separate from the Town Council and its meetings. Nevertheless, he stated that apart from those statutory provisions that were already in place, other issues concerning proceedings at Town Meetings were normally dealt with by reference to the Council's approved Standing Orders, as a matter of custom and practice.

RESOLVED: that the contents of the report be received and noted.

456/11

PRINTING NAMES ON PLANNING COMMITTEE AGENDAS

The Committee considered a draft report concerning the printing of applicants' names on the Planning Committees agendas which had been prepared by the former Town Clerk. The recently appointed Town Clerk stated that he disagreed with the conclusions set out in the draft report, on the grounds that the information it referred to was already in the public domain.

RESOLVED: unanimously that the names of applicants be put back on Planning Agendas.

457/11

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: unanimously that in accordance with the provisions of Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting.

458/11

DEBTORS

The Committee received a report from the Town Clerk on debtors.

RESOLVED: that the report be received but that Officers be instructed to monitor the debt of £276.00 closely.

The meeting ended at 8.35 pm