

MARLBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

FINANCE AND POLICY

Minutes of the meeting of the **Finance and Policy Committee** held on the 24th September, 2007 in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Marlborough** at 8.00 pm

PRESENT	Councillor A. Ross Councillor S. Dobson Councillor N. Fogg Councillor G. Loosmore Councillor A. Sycamore	Chairman
ALSO PRESENT	Mrs Pam Dobson Mrs Sue Fry Councillor B. Castle Councillor Mrs E. M. Hannaford-Dobson Councillor M. Rose	Town Clerk Office Manager Observing Observing Observing

NOTICE OF MEETING – Public Notice of the meeting has been given in accordance with Schedule 12, Para 10 (2) of the Local Government Act 1972.

242/07 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs P. Dow and A. Kirk Wilson.

243/07 DECLARATION(S) OF INTEREST

There were no Declaration(s) of Interest.

244/07 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed councillors to the first focus meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee and said that he felt that it would be the first of many that the committee may wish to hold and by the end of the meeting, it was hoped to have a clear understanding of how the agenda objectives would be progressed.

The Chairman said that he felt that this is un-charted waters for this council as generally we are re-active rather than pro-active but we are now attempting to plan for our four years in office. There are three items on the agenda, all three will be examined but it may be that we alternate between the three as they are all inter-connected.

The Chairman informed members that no voting will take place but would like everyone to agree tonight on the way forward.

245/07 MINUTES

Proposed by Councillor A. Sycamore, seconded by Councillor G. Loosmore and –

RESOLVED: unanimously that the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee held on the 10th September, 2007 be received and signed as a true record.

246/07 THREE YEAR BUDGET PREPARATION

The Chairman informed members that there is a requirement under audit regulations to have regard to a three year budget and with this in mind a spreadsheet had been drawn up to facilitate this process. Individual committees could decide their own expenditure, based upon the existing cost centres and include an adequate contingency for unforeseen items.

247/07 WISH LIST

was Following the last F & P meeting the format of the list had been revised by the Town Clerk to include written submissions. Councillor Sycamore had then grouped the items by type but there still potential for revising this to facilitate easier use at the proposed informal meeting, which would now be progressed.

248/07 MISSION STATEMENT

The Clerk had circulated various examples from other Councils and Councillor Sycamore had drawn up a draft incorporating all the items designated as mission statements from the wish list. Some discussion took place on the value of mission statements coupled with civic objectives. After some discussion about the merits of short or long mission statements, it was suggested that this form part of the discussions at the proposed informal meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.15p.m.