

MARLBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

FINANCE AND POLICY

Minutes of the meeting of the **Finance and Policy Committee** held on the **10th November, 2009** in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Marlborough at 8.00 pm**

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| PRESENT | Councillor A. Ross Councillor N. Fogg Councillor S.R. Dobson Councillor Mrs E M Hannaford-Dobson Councillor A Kirk Wilson Councillor G Loosmore Councillor R. Pitts | Chairman Town Mayor |
| ALSO PRESENT | Mr. Liam Costello Mrs Sue Fry Councillor B. Castle Councillor Mrs P. Dow Councillor A. Spranger Councillor Mrs C. Jackson Councillor Mrs E. Fogg | Town Clerk Office Manager Observing Observing 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

357/09 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

358/09 DECLARATION(S) OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

359/09 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Chairman's Announcements.

360/09 PARKING

The Committee discussed the possible introduction of a Residents Parking Scheme in Marlborough. The following comments and observations were made –

There is clearly a need for some kind of parking scheme in Marlborough not only for residents but also for those travelling into the town for work.

There will be a considerable cost to those wish to partake in a residents parking scheme and this would not guarantee being able to park outside or near to their homes.

Wiltshire Council should be approached regarding the present parking charges to see if they could be reduced in line with other local towns.

A Park and Ride scheme from the Business Park could be investigated.

Councillor Hannaford-Dobson informed members that during her time as a District Councillor she had driven this project forward and that Wiltshire Council would have this information on file somewhere which would save having to start from scratch.

It was agreed that the Town Clerk should source costings from traffic consultants for a traffic and parking survey to be carried out and that we should attempt to locate the file from Wiltshire Council.

361/09

SCHEME OF DELIGATION

The Committee considered adopting a proposal from the Town Clerk for a Scheme of Delegation for the Committees and the Town Clerk.

Councillor S. Dobson ask that it be minuted that he had fundamental concerns on this item being discussed tonight.

Following discussion it was –

Proposed by Councillor N. Fogg, seconded by Councillor Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson and –

RECOMMENDED: by 6 votes for with 1 against (Cllr. S. Dobson being named as voting against) that the scheme of delegation be endorsed subject to minor amendments and taken to the next Full Town Council.

362/09

CIVIC, CEREMONIAL AND INSIGNIA

The Committee considered matters relating to the appointment of an additional Civic Officer.

After discussion it was –

Proposed by Councillor S. Dobson, seconded by Councillor Mrs E.M. Hannaford-Dobson and –

RECOMMENDED: unanimously that this Council appoint a Town Beadle, the current Town Crier to remain in position, the appointment of a Ceremonial Officer be within the gift of the Town Mayor each year. The Town Crier's staff to be restored.

363/09 ANNUAL REPORT

The Committee considered the external audit report for the conclusion of the Annual Audit.

It was agreed unanimously that the Annual Audit Report be accepted and that the staff be thanked for all their hard work.

364/09 BUDGET REPORT

It was agreed that the Budget Report be noted.

365/09 BUDGET STRATEGY FOR 2010/2011

The Chairman outlined the Budget Strategy for 2010/2011 as follows –

We continue the policy of budgeting for a surplus.

Recognising that Members are seeking a relatively neutral budget we set the Precept in the sum of £389,268 (P/Y £370,731) being an increase of 5.0% over the prior year.

Whilst budgeting for a surplus we discontinue the policy of allocating non cash reserves in our budget.

At the year end when the surplus is quantified it is allocated or ring fenced in such a manner as considered appropriate at the time.

Where discretionary expenditure has not been spent in a current year it can, if considered appropriate, be carried forward as an Expenditure Reserve for the relevant committee.

After discussion it was –

Proposed by Councillor R. Pitts, seconded by Councillor A. Kirk Wilson and –

RECOMMENDED: by 5 votes for with 1 against and 1 abstention that this be accepted in principle subject to receiving the final budgets from Committees.

366/09 DRAFT BUDGET 2010/2011

The Committee considered the draft budget for 2010/2011 (as per attached copy)

367/09 BRITISH LEGION

The Committee considered the impact of the closure of the local ranch of the British Legion. The Chairman informed members that the artefacts would come into the ownership of the Council.

After discussion it was –

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

RECOMMENDED: unanimously that the local branch of the British Legion be offered a facility within the Town Hall to hold their meetings for a nominal amount to cover the cost of heating and lighting.

368/09 CIVIC DINNER

The Chairman reminded members that should they wish to attend the Civic Dinner they should contact the Civic Secretary to arrange the purchase of tickets.

PART 2

Proposed by Councillor A. Ross, seconded by Councillor R. Pitts and –

RESOLVED: unanimously that 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 temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.

369/09 OVERDUE ACCOUNTS

The Town Clerk reported that at present there are no debts due to the Council that are more 30 days old or outside the Council's normal trading terms.

370/09 HIRE OF TOWN HALL

The Committee considered a request for a reduced rate for a Town Hall hiring on the 16th December, 2009.

After discussion it was –

Proposed by Councillor A. Ross, seconded by Councillor A. Kirk Wilson and –

RECOMMENDED: unanimously that on this occasion the rental on the Town Hall for 4MI Battalion Christmas Party be halved therefore the sum due would be £122.00

The meeting closed at 10.10 pm