

FOLKESTONE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held at Folkestone Town Council Offices, Town Hall, 1-2 Guildhall Street, Folkestone on Thursday, 22 February 2018 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors D Brook, J Collier, P Gane, N Jones, D Monk (Chairman), M Salmon, R Theobald, R Wallace and R Wheeler.

OFFICERS PRESENT: J Childs (Town Clerk) and P Cross (Finance Officer).

1189. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

1190. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councilors P Gane and R Wheeler declared a personal interest in item 6 ó Shepway District Council Annual Scrutiny Programme.

1191. MINUTES

The Committee was asked to receive and authorise the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 19 December 2017.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 19 December 2017 be received and signed as a correct record.

Proposed: Councillor J Collier

Seconded: Councillor P Gane

Voting: F:8 Ag:0, Ab:1

1192. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

The Committee considered the schedule of payments for the period 1 December 2017 to 31 January 2018.

The issue of parking spaces was raised and the Town Clerk was asked to include the cost of parking spaces when staffing costs are being considered.

RESOLVED: That the Schedule of Payments for the period 1 December 2017 to 31 January 2018 be approved.

Proposed: Councillor R Wheeler

Seconded: Councillor M Salmon

Voting: F:8, Ag:0, Ab:1

1193. BUDGET MONITORING STATEMENT 2017/18

The budget monitoring statement to 31 January 2018 was received by the Committee. It was noted that the Christmas Lighting service was due to be reviewed by the Community Services Committee in the new financial year.

RESOLVED: That the Budget Monitoring Statement to 31 January 2018 be approved.

Proposed: Councillor P Gane

Seconded: Councillor R Wheeler

Voting: F:8, Ag:0, Ab:1

1194. SHEPWAY DISTRICT COUNCIL ANNUAL SCRUTINY PROGRAMME

The following communication had been received from Shepway District Council:

*If your town or parish council wishes to add an item, or items, to the programme please see the attached blank scoping form that you should complete with **each** suggested item. Please complete as much of the form as you can, making sure that it is clear as to what is required by the scrutiny process and forward to committee@shepway.gov.uk where each form will be reviewed by the Head of Democratic Services and Law.*

The deadline for receipt of suggested items is 5pm on Friday 23 March 2018.

The Committee was asked to propose any topics for scrutiny which relate to the Town Council's business.

RESOLVED: That the item be deferred to the next meeting of Full Council, so that all Councillors can be involved in the process.

Proposed: Councillor P Gane

Seconded: Councillor N Jones

Voting: F:9, Ag:0, Ab:0

RESOLVED: That the policy for the replacement of damaged wheelie bins be put to Full Council as a possible topic for the scrutiny programme.

Proposed: Councillor J Collier

Seconded: Councillor N Jones

Voting: F:6, Ag:0, Ab:3

1195. MUSEUM/HERITAGE CONSULTANT

The Committee was asked to consider the engagement of the consultant Paul Fraser Webb to work with the Council on its forward planning and governance guidance for the Museum/Heritage service. The tender of £6,000 is available from the HLF staff training budget and will therefore not impact on the Council's revenue budget.

RESOLVED: That the engagement of the Museum/Heritage Consultant be approved.

Proposed: Councillor N Jones

Seconded: Councillor P Gane

Voting: F:8, Ag:1, Ab:0

1196. GURKHA MEMORIAL STATUE

Following referral from Full Council (14 September 2017), at its meeting on 3 October 2017 the Community Services Committee resolved that Folkestone Town Council takes responsibility for the statue but not organise any commemorations or services relating to the Gurkha Memorial. The Committee was requested to give the Town Clerk permission to sign the lease on behalf of the Council.

RESOLVED: That the transfer of the Gurkha Memorial be approved, provided that the Town Council is not involved in the organisation of any events and is not required to pay any transfer costs.

Proposed: Councillor P Gane

Seconded: Councillor D Brook

Voting: F:9, Ag:0, Ab:0

1197. APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR

The Committee was asked to approve the appointment of the KALC recommended internal auditor for 2017/18.

RESOLVED: That the appointment of the KALC recommended Auditor be approved for 2017/18 but other Auditors be proposed for next year to break continuity.

Proposed: Councillor P Gane

Seconded: Councillor R Wheeler

Voting: F:9, Ag:0, Ab:0

1198. WARD GRANTS

A list of ward grants approved by the Town Clerk from 1 December 2017 to 31 January 2018 was provided for the Committee's information and duly noted.

1199. WARD GRANT BALANCES 2017/18

A list of ward grant balances available to each Councillor at 31 January 2018 was provided for the Committee's information and duly noted.

1200. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 12 April 2018

Chairman í

Date í