

LOOE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING

held in the Tourist Information Centre,
The Guildhall, East Looe on Monday 25th October 2010 at 7pm

REPORT TO COUNCIL

PRESENT Chairman – Cllr K Smith
Cllrs D J Bryan, M Gregory, and C Lambert

IN ATTENDANCE

Town Clerk – Mrs A Frith
Cllrs E B Galipeau and Mrs M Powell

53. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D Welch.

54. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Bryan and Galipeau declared an interest in any matter raised concerning East Looe Town Trust.

Councillors Galipeau and Lambert declared an interest in any matter raised concerning Looe Development Trust.

Councillor Galipeau declared an interest in any matter raised concerning RNLI.

55. TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS OR STATEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present.

56. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 13TH SEPTEMBER 2010

There were no matters raised.

57. TO DISCUSS REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

.1 Cornwall Air Ambulance

An application for a grant towards the cost of this service had been received and was discussed.

Councillor Gregory proposed that a donation of £200 be made, seconded by Councillor Bryan it was:

RESOLVED

Unanimously to make a donation of £200 to Cornwall Air Ambulance.

.2 Looe Development Trust

Following a request made in August for second tranche payment of £2,500 of our pledged £7,000 and the presentation made at the Full Council Meeting of 28th September the Committee discussed this matter.

There were concerns raised about the sustainability of the IT Centre and the lack of funding from other sources. Suggestions were made that Looe Development Trust need to look at rationalising its business, more pro-active marketing and working with other organisations.

After much discussion Councillor Smith proposed that half the £2,500 be paid now and a letter be sent with our cheque for £1,250.00 stating that Looe Development Trust should positively explore working in partnership with other organisations that have mutual and beneficial interest and to produce a report for discussions at the Finance and Works Meeting on 24th January 2011, seconded by Councillor Gregory it was:

RESOLVED

Unanimously to make a payment of £1,250.00, the remainder being subject to the above.

.3 A Toms – Allotments

An informal request for assistance towards the cost of providing a water butt for the new allotments was discussed.

After discussion the Clerk was asked to send an application form to Councillor Toms for him to forward to the Allotment Association so that a formal application can be made and to suggest that Viridor may also help.

58. CORRESPONDENCE

.1 RNLi

A letter received asking for an additional finger be added to our finger posts to indicate the location of the Lifeboat Station was read to the Committee.

After discussion the Clerk was asked to ascertain the costs involved and report back to the next Committee Meeting.

.2 Mr H Gardner – Devon and Cornwall Constabulary – Looe Police Station

A letter received offering office accommodation within the police station was read to the Committee.

It was agreed that we need to find out what is being offered at what cost/terms etc and then refer the matter to Full Council for discussion.

The Clerk was asked to arrange a meeting with Mr Gardiner.

.3 Vitalise

A letter of thanks for our recent donation was read to the Committee.

.4 Pennon Group

Notification of a dividend payment of £1.87 had been received.

59. TO DISCUSS AND IDENTIFY PRIORITY PROJECTS

.1 Seats

It was agreed that the seats all need attention. Councillor Galipeau has surveyed and photographed all 30 seats and will provide information for the next meeting. It was agreed that this should be a 2/3 year programme. A worksheet will be provided to identify the ones in most urgent need of repair/replacement.

The Clerk was asked to ask Cornwall Council for a list of all seats in Looe that they are responsible for.

60. TO REVIEW THE COUNCIL'S CURRENT AND POTENTIAL ASSETS

The Council's current assets are The Mariner's Garden, the War Memorial and the leases on the Health Centre Patient's Car Park and West Looe Down Store.

It was agreed that the lease on the car park should be renegotiated as there is less than three years left on the current lease, a 30 year lease was suggested.

Potential assets could include purchasing new premises for the Tourist Information Centre and Council Offices as rental is dead money.

Various options were suggested including the purchase of the Guildhall.

This could be done with a Public Works Loan (current interest rate of 3.9%) over 20 years.

It was agreed that all options be looked at and further discussions be held after a meeting with East Looe Town Trust has been held to discuss the Guildhall options.

The Bowling Club/Putting Green is also a potential asset but it was agreed that the cost of running this facility could be prohibitive. It was suggested that this could be done under Cornwall Council's Active Partnering Scheme and the Clerk was asked to invite Steven Foster (Community Network Manager) to the next meeting to discuss the various Service Level Agreements available to us.

61. TO DISCUSS FURTHER THE BUDGET/PRECEPT PROPOSALS FOR 2011/12

It was agreed that it is important to achieve and maintain the required level of Council reserves. The proposals provided by the Clerk were discussed at length and it was agreed that it is very difficult to set the level of precept this year without knowledge of which services will be devolved from Cornwall Council and the cost of these services and the administration involved.

The proposals had been worked out on an increase of 1.5%, the Clerk was asked to rework the proposals to increase the precept by 2% and provide this for the next meeting.

62. TO REVIEW THE COUNCIL'S CURRENT FINANCIAL STATUS

The Clerk had provided an up-to-date report and the Committee agreed that the finances are in good order.

63. MATTERS FOR FURTHER/URGENT DISCUSSION AS DETERMINED BY THE CHAIRMAN

There were no matters raised.

The Meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Signed Date
Chairman of Finance and Works Committee