

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT WELLS TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 9th JUNE 2009

PRESENT: Cllrs D Anderson, C Borastero, M Brandon, N Kennedy, J North, T Robbins and H Siggs.

IN ATTENDANCE: The Town Clerk

Mr Hudsmith queried why the purchase of Town Hall equipment was being dealt with in confidence. He also raised concern about the current condition of the ambitious planting scheme on the Relief Road. The City Council had been lumbered with serious maintenance issues and it was not right. The Town Clerk informed the meeting that after he had held a meeting with the contractor he would be submitting a full report to the next meeting of the Committee but that, in the meantime, instructions would be given for work to clear obscured traffic signs.

09/026F APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The committee received the apologies from Cllr Price.

09/027F ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

It was **resolved** that Cllr Robbins be elected Chairman for the forthcoming year with Cllr Siggs as Vice Chairman. Cllr Siggs thanked Cllr Anderson for his help and support as Vice Chairman over the past two years.

09/028F FINANCIAL REPORTS

The Committee received the financial reports for April and May prepared following the close-down of the accounts package and resetting for 2009/10. No major issues had been raised and the Committee noted that the reports had been scrutinised satisfactorily.

09/029F APPOINTMENT OF WORKING GROUPS & REPORTS

It was agreed that the working groups be re-established and that the Chairmen be responsible for constructing their membership.

(i) Council properties

Cllr Anderson agreed to be Chairman. The Town Clerk reported on the progress of the lease 1 Priory Road and on work to be done in respect of other properties.

(ii) Finance

Cllr North agreed to be Chairman.

(iii) Policies

The Chair would be left vacant but the Town Clerk reported on the satisfactory PAT testing arising from a recent Health and Safety review.

09/030F APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO CEMETERY SUB-COMMITTEE

After a brief discussion it was agreed to make the Cemetery an agenda item at the quarterly meetings of the Committee when Cemetery finance was considered to which the Superintendent would report rather than to create a separate organisation.

09/031F REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

(i) Somerset County Council

Cllr Siggs declared his interest as a member of the County Council.

It was agreed to **resolve** to make a contribution of £400 as requested towards the relocation of SID equipment.

(ii) Wells Cathedral School

As the application did not fall within the Council's grant criteria the request was declined.

09/032F ITEM FOR URGENT INFORMATION

(i) Members returned to discussion about the maintenance of planting on the Relief Road, They agreed that deliberations about the operation of the current contract should be separate from a high level discussion with the County about the future work necessary to the planting in forthcoming years both of which should occur as soon as practicable.

(ii) Members considered a request for an award but decided to take no action.

(iii) The Mayor informed members of action that she had taken recently to restore items to display in the Town Hall consistent with previous decisions of the Council.

09/033F RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE PRESS AND PUBLIC

In order to discuss quotations for the purchase of equipment in confidence it was intended that the press and public be excluded by virtue of the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as amended. However, it was agreed that the identity of the intended supplier be not disclosed that confidentiality would be superfluous. It was agreed to **recommend** that 220 chairs with seat and back support be purchased at a total cost of £5,302.