

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, EXMOUTH ON MONDAY, 16th November 2009 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT: Councillors: J Whipps (Chairman)
T Cope M Mitchell
L Elson P Stott
S Gazzard S Sutton
P Graham M Williamson
K Harper E Wragg
J Humphreys S Wragg
J Mitchell

APOLOGIES: Councillors M Ackland, D Chapman, V. Duval-Steer, I Stewart and B Walker

F1 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5th October 2009

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5th October 2009 were approved and signed as a correct record.

F2 URGENT BUSINESS

None

F3 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

There were no items on the agenda that required exclusion of the press and public.

F4 EXMOUTH CRICKET CLUB

Richard Butler, Secretary and Nigel Sampson, Treasurer of the Exmouth Cricket Club gave a presentation in support of their request for a financial assistance either through the grant fund or the projects fund. They outlined the development work being carried out to this important Devon cricket ground and the work to bring on young people.

RESOLVED that the application be referred to the next meeting for consideration with Project Fund Applications.

F5 AUDIT COMMISSION – ANNUAL RETURN

The Town Clerk gave a report on the comments of the External Audit Commission, the following matters were drawn to the Council for action:-

- The Council must develop its own financial risk assessment;

- Fidelity Insurance should be increased to £340,000 (cash balances plus half the precept);
- Fixed assets register must be consistent with the insurance schedule.

RESOLVED that the certificate of completed audit for the year end 31st March 2009 be received and the other matters be actioned.

F6 ACCOUNTS SUB-COMMITTEE

The Town Clerk gave feedback on the points raised by the Accounts Sub-Committee Group. The Committee discussed combining the Project Fund with the Grant Fund to form a combined Community Grants Fund.

RESOLVED that a Community Fund be set up with a budget of £36,000

F7 DRAFT BUDGET 2010/2011

The Committee had before it the report of the Town Clerk with the first draft budget report for the year 2010/2011. This was before the committee for initial consideration and a formal recommendation would be sought at the next meeting on 4th January 2010.

A discussion took place on the level of precept for next year. The report raised issues for discussion concerning future challenges facing the town, the effects of public sector cuts affecting Principal Authorities. It identified the need to be ready to play its part in respect of seeking ways to safeguard Rolle or a part of the site for community use, potential for taking on the management of Elizabeth Hall, provision of leverage funding for schemes such as interpretation at the Orcombe Point end of the seafront.

The precept effect of borrowing money to assist with Rolle or for providing for other community benefit in the town was identified. The question of raising the precept was met with caution and there was time for Councillors to consider this further through various meetings leading up to the budget setting meeting in January. Various actions were identified for consideration:-

- Convene Elizabeth Hall Working Party;
- Follow up on S106 possibilities relating to the Docks development relating to toilets and shower block provision;
- Seek advice from Reinvesting in Devon Officers concerning various funding options which might be available.

RESOLVED that the accounts be considered in more detail by the Accounts Sub-Committee and more specific options for budget funding be presented to the next meeting of the Committee taking into account the

above action points.

F8 CARPET REPLACEMENT COMMITTEE ROOM, MAYOR'S PARLOUR AND FOYER AND CUPBOARDS IN COMMITTEE ROOM

The Committee had before it a report from the Office Manager for these works for which budget provision was provided in earmarked reserves.

RESOLVED that the work be carried out as per the report.

F9 GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Council considered the second tranche of grants with £3,901 available for allocation.

RESOLVED that the grants be approved as follows:-

Application	Decision	Conditions/Reasons
3 rd Exmouth Cub Scouts	£500	
Littleham Family Activity Centre	NIL	Town Clerk to write to organisation to ask if they would like to give a presentation in support of their application. There were concerns that even with some grant funding that the Centre could be sustained with little evidence of an income stream.
The Children's Society	NIL	National Organisation
Exmouth Community College	NIL	Defer while Councillors visit the College independently and refer to projects fund.
The Museum Society of Exmouth	NIL	Defer for more information concerning why such a significant amount now being sought for marketing.
Headway Devon	£250	
Exmouth Project Fund	NIL	Refer to Project Fund
Exmouth Carnival	£1000	SLA to be set up for 3 years funding of £1,000pa.

Bridge Building Basketball Exmouth	NIL	Town Clerk to write to organisation as at present there is only 1 signatory and no apparent management committee in place and cannot grant fund individuals.
Rotary Club of Exmouth	£250	
Exmouth Gateway Club	£250	
Victim Support in Devon	NIL	Not convinced of local need.
Exmouth Rugby Football Club	£500	
Fairtrade Steering Group	£300	

Note:

Declarations of Personal Interests as follows:

Councillors P Graham, J Whipps, T Cope & J Mitchell in respect of various organisations in respect of which they are patrons, members or have connections and John Wokersien as a member of the Rotary Club.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.

SIGNED.....

DATED.....