

NEWBIGGIN-BY-THE-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Finance Committee held on Wednesday 11 December 2013 at 7.30 pm at the Newbiggin Sports and Community Centre.

PRESENT:

Councillors: M Cholerton (Chairperson)

M Boon W Rogers A Thompson S Todd

Officer: D Earl – Town Clerk

Also present: Councillors L Burns R Dixon and M Peden.

FC08/13 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 09 October 2013 be approved as a true record

FC09/13 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Councillor Boon reminded Members of his interest as Secretary of the Allotment Association; Councillors Burns Rogers and Thompson as Directors of Newbiggin Portas Town Team; Councillors Peden and Thompson as members of the Royal British Legion.

FC10/13 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items on the Agenda as they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Act relating to financial and business affairs.

FC11/13 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE BUDGET REPORT AND PROJECTIONS

Income and expenditure for the current financial year was reported to Members together with projections by the Town Clerk to the end of March. There was a projected under-spend on the budget for the year depending on further commitments to project expenditure although the detail of some individual budgets were highlighted along with a detailed breakdown for Woodhorn Villa.

Members were advised of an offer from the Portas Town Team to contribute £750 towards room costs at Woodhorn Villa following use by the Town Team Co-ordinator.

Details of balances and contingencies were also considered in relation to the committed projects still to be completed. The Town Clerk reported a further successful grant application with £13,000 being approved by NCC Developers Fund contributing

to the Multi Use Games Area project alongside the Skatepark. This would allow some works to repair the boundary wall access path and re-instatement of landscaping to be carried out to complement these schemes.

Newbiggin Portas Team had secured further funding from Alcan and wanted to undertake a scheme to enhance the entrance way from the North Seaton roundabout providing bus shelters at the Sandy Bay junction jointly with the Town Council. Arriva had agreed to contribute advertising for Newbiggin on the buses and the Caravan Park was being requested to contribute. Enclosed shelters could be required at that exposed site and Members discussed the merits of the project and other requirements in the town.

RECOMMENDED that:

- 1) The report be received and virement approved where necessary;**
- 2) The contribution of £750 from Portas Town Team be accepted;**
- 3) The Town Clerk arrange repair works and landscaping if possible from the allocation towards the MUGA;**
- 4) It is agreed in principle to contribute to the Bus Shelter project with the Portas Team.**

FC12/13 BUDGET PLANNING – PROPOSALS FOR 2014-15

The Town Clerk circulated a document containing a possible draft budget for 2014 – 15 based on projections of current budget spending and commitments to building expenditure and recommended that administration service delivery and repairs and replacements be maintained at similar levels. Modest increases were proposed for special events and youth leisure schemes.

Discussions had started with Neighbourhood Services regarding environmental projects and it was felt that allocations were required towards possible projects for the bay town and gateways. Members felt that it was important to complete improvements to the sea front and to set out the stall for the town this year both for tourism and future quality of life. Increasing provision for project funding was supported and the draft recommendations agreed.

Representations had been made to Northumberland County Council regarding the grant provided by government required to compensate for the localisation of council tax benefit which would impact on the level of precept to be considered at the Town Council meeting.

RECOMMENDED that: the proposals set out in Appendix 1 form the basis of the Budget for 2014-15.

Signed by the Chairperson:

Date:.....

Summary Budget 2014.15	Budget 2014.15
ADMINISTRATION	37,150
OFFICE/MEETING COSTS	7,735
FEES & CHARGES	4,640
MEMBERS EXPENSES	1,150
SERVICE DELIVERY	31,500
REPAIRS AND REPLACEMENTS	20,000
SPECIAL EVENTS	5,000
PROJECT FUNDING	41,900
	146,445
ADMINISTRATION	
Salary provision	30,000
NI contributions	3,000
Pension Gratuity	4,000
Travel/Subsistence	50
Training/conference	100
	37,150
OFFICE/MEETING COSTS	
Rates	1,755
Building heating/cleaning	2,630
Telecommunications	700
IT Equipment	100
IT Support	150
Room Hire – meetings	250
Printing & Stationery	450
Postage	100
Equipment & Furniture	100
Insurances	1,500
	7,735
Arts Centre Woodhorn Villa*/ Reinstatement	
FEES & CHARGES	
Audit	600
Legal & Election – Casual Vacancy	
Public Notices	
Subscriptions – NALC	650
Professional Fees	200
Publications	2,500
Website hosting	220
Publicity	250
Bank charges	220
	4,640
MEMBERS EXPENSES & CIVIC	
Councillors expenses	600
Training costs	200
Town Assembly	100
Civic Expenses	100
Remembrance Day	150
	1,150
TOTAL ADMIN EXPENSES	48,045

SERVICE DELIVERY	
Play Areas	
Public toilets	
War Memorial maintenance	
Bus Shelter maintenance	
Public Seating maintenance	
Floral displays (annual bedding)	
Newbiggin Nipper service contribution	
Christmas Lighting	
	31,500
REPAIRS AND REPLACEMENTS	
Bus Shelters	
Play Areas	
Public Seats	
Public waste bins	
	20,000
SPECIAL EVENTS	
Gardens Competition/N in Bloom	1,000
Newbiggin Triathlon	2,500
Music events programme	1,500
	5,000
PROJECT FUNDING	
Bay Environmental Schemes	5,000
Town Environmental Schemes	5,000
Town Centre and Gateway Projects	5,000
Bursary - Wansbeck Music Festival	300
Holiday and leisure schemes	14,400
Youth and adult support schemes	3,000
Community volunteering support projects	2,500
Events Leaflet	700
Small Grants scheme	6,000
	41,900
Total budget	146,445
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