

Minutes of a Meeting of the Sandwich Town Council Finance Committee, held on Monday 9th December 2013, in the Mayor's Parlour, Guildhall, Sandwich at 6pm.

Present: Councillors: The Mayor (in the Chair)
H J Bragg
P Graeme

Officers: Miss L Fidler
Miss K Streatfeild

19.12.13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Mrs Dunay and Sneller due to holiday commitments, Cllr Trussler who was unwell and Cllr Watts due to family commitments.

20.12.13 DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND OTHER SIGNIFICANT INTERESTS.

There were no declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests or Other Significant Interests. The Mayor noted his membership of the Gazen Salts Management Committee in relationship to Item 23.12.13.

21.12.13 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

It was agreed that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (as extended by s.100 of the Local Government Act 1972), the public and accredited representatives of newspapers be excluded from the meeting for Items 22.12.13 (i) and (ii) on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of the Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by virtue of the paragraph specified against this item.

22.12.13 STAFFING SALARIES

Members considered the following:

(i) Staffing Salaries from 1st April 2014

RECOMMENDATION: That staff be given a 1.5% pay increment from 1st April 2014.

(ii) The Town Clerk/Responsible Finance Officers salary from 1st April 2014.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Clerk be promoted to salary scale point 32.

23.12.13 GRANTS

Members considered awarding grants to the following organisations in the 2014/15 financial year:

(i) Gazen Salts Nature Reserve

RECOMMENDATION: That a grant of £4,000 be offered for the continued improvement and operations of the reserve.

(ii) Trains4Deal

RECOMMENDATION: That a grant of £500 be offered to assist with the campaign to keep the High Speed Rail Service operating from Deal and Sandwich.

24.12.13 PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Members considered whether the management of the public conveniences should be undertaken by Sandwich Toll Bridge Fund instead of Sandwich Town Council, and what benefits could arise from the transfer.

RECOMMENDATION: That a letter be written to DDC asking whether they would be prepared to facilitate the transfer of the lease of the Quay Public Conveniences from Sandwich Town Council to Sandwich Toll Bridge Fund and then reduce the rates.

25.12.13 SANDWICH TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET 2014/15

Members considered the information provided by the Responsible Finance Officer, factored in the recommendations made already in the meeting and agreed on a draft budget for submission to the Council for approval.

RECOMMENDATION: That the attached draft budget be approved.

26.12.13 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Sandwich Town Council Finance Committee will be held on Monday 6th January 2014, at 6pm in the Mayor's Parlour.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

DRAFT