

Minutes of a Meeting of the Sandwich Toll Bridge Fund Finance Committee, held on Monday 24 February 2014, in the Mayor's Parlour, Guildhall, Sandwich at 6.00pm.

Present: **Councillors:** **The Mayor (in the Chair)**
Mrs J L Dunay
P Graeme
M W Moorhouse
M B Trussler

Officers: **Miss L Fidler**
Miss K Streatfeild

28.02.14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Bragg. Apologies were not received from Cllrs Watts and Wood.

29.02.14 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No private interests were declared.

Cllr Moorhouse arrived at this point in the meeting.

30.02.14 GRANTS

Members considered the following information in relation to the Grants Budget for 2014/15:

(i) A verbal and written report from Cllr Mrs Laslett (as a member of the public). Mrs Laslett suggested an alternative proposal to the one adopted in recent years in which the grants budget has been reduced. She proposed that a budget of £8k was affordable and would generate a great deal of good will within the town.

(ii) A verbal and written report from Cllr Graeme. Cllr Graeme proposed that the grants budget be set at £4k (the same as the previous year) with the caveat that grant applications received above and beyond this amount will be considered on their merit at the time.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Grants Budget be set at £4k for 2014/15, the Finance Committee will continue to review the budget quarterly and further grants could be awarded in the year if approved by the Trustees.

Cllr Moorhouse voted against this motion.

31.02.14 GUILDHALL BUSINESS PLAN

Cllr Moorhouse is currently researching whether some of the bookings that St. Mary's Art Centre is not able to accommodate can be transferred to the Guildhall (instead of to Deal, which has been the case recently), when he has been able to meet with the Event Manager from St. Mary's Art Centre he will report back to the Trustees whether this is a possibility and what might be involved.

Cllr Graeme presented a proposed budget for re-invigorating the Guildhall as a wedding venue, a copy of this report is attached to the official minutes.

RESOLUTION: That a budget be set at £3k in 2014/15 for promoting the Guildhall as a wedding venue. Quotes will be obtained for the Trustees to approve how this money is spent throughout the year to ensure that the Trust is the benefactor of this expenditure.

32.02.14 BUDGET 2014/15

Members considered the following information:

(i) An Excel spreadsheet detailing the forecast for the remainder of 2013/14 and the start of the budget for 2014/15.

(ii) Explanatory notes to help assist with budget setting.

Cllr Graeme proposed how the budget could be shaped and members discussed the different options.

RESOLUTIONS:

(i) That the attached budget be put to the Trustees for approval.

(ii) The Clerk continues to obtain further quotes for possible work at the Guildhall, to be presented at the next Finance Committee Meeting.

33.02.14 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Sandwich Toll Bridge Fund Finance Committee will be held on Monday 7th April 2014, following a meeting of Sandwich Town Council Finance Committee.

Signed: _____ Date: _____