

GAINSBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of a Meeting of the Management and Finance Committee held at Richmond House,
Morton Terrace, Gainsborough on Tuesday 16 September 2014 at 6:30pm

Present: Councillor Paul Key (Chairman)

Councillor Barry Coward
Councillor Richard Craig

In Attendance:

Mathew Gleadell Clerk to the Council
Rachel Allbones Deputy Clerk to the Council
Sean Alcock Operations Manager

Also in Attendance: Councillor John Butler

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND REASONS GIVEN

Councillor Matthew Boles
Councillor Lesley Rollings

RESOLVED to accept the apologies and reasons given.

2. TO RECEIVE MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOCALISM ACT 2011 AND TO RECEIVE ANY APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

None received.

3. MINUTES

i. Minutes of the meeting of Management and Finance Committee held Thursday 17 July 2014

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Management and Finance Committee meeting held on Thursday 17 July 2014 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

4. FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR JULY / AUGUST / SEPTEMBER (Papers A, B and C)

i. Further information about 11910, 11855 and 11884 from previous meeting

The Deputy Clerk gave the Members some clarification regarding the invoices that were not approved at the previous meeting.

RESOLVED to accept transactions 11910, 11855 and 11884 for payment.

Note: Councillor Vaughan Hughes arrived at 6:50pm.

Note: Councillor David Dobbie arrived at 6:53pm.

- ii. Unpaid Expenditure Transactions for 10 September 2014 (Paper A)

Members considered at length Paper A and the revised Paper A.

RESOLVED that Members accept the transactions in Paper A revised - Unpaid Expenditure Transactions for 16 September 2014 for payment.

- iii. Cashbook Summary (including due and unpaid transactions) for 10 September 2014 (Paper B)

RESOLVED that Members note Paper B revised - Cashbook Summary (including due and unpaid transactions) for 16 September 2014

- iv. Budget Comparison Report (including due and unpaid transactions) for 10 September 2014 (Paper C)

RESOLVED that Members note Paper C Budget Comparison Report (including due and unpaid transactions) for 10 September 2014.

5. MONTHLY BANK RECONCILIATION SIGN OFF FOR JUNE, JULY & AUGUST (Papers D & E)

The Deputy Clerk informed Members that Paper F, the monthly bank reconciliation for August, was not yet finalised and would be presented at the net meeting.

RESOLVED to accept and sign off the Bank Reconciliations for 30 June 2014 and 31 July 2014.

6. TABLET COMPUTERS FOR MEMBERS

Members considered a proposal from Cllr. Paul Key to consider the purchase of tablet computers for members use.

A full discussion took place, stressing the need for an ICT User Policy if the Council did go down the route to purchase computer equipment for Members, and concerns and possible resolutions were discussed regarding the Councils wifi signal strength.

RESOLVED TO RECOMEND TO FULL COUNCIL that Council considers purchasing all Members tablet computers in 2015 / 2016.

7. PHOTOCOPIER (Papers G & H)

Members were of the view that the spec of photocopier will depend on if the Council opts to purchase all Members a tablet computer.

RESOLVED to defer the matter until the next meeting to allow the above recommendation to have been resolved.

8. POLICY REVIEW (Paper I)

Councillor Coward requested that the item be deferred until the next meeting as he believed an item had been missed out of the Standing Order review.

9. TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER MOTION

i. Recommendation received from Councillor Butler

I wish to put a proposal to Full Council to Contract out all Grounds Maintenance - Cemeteries, Sports Fields, Recreation Parks, Play Areas and Aisby Walk.

I do not wish to see our staff out of work but rather if Council agrees to Contract out work that TUPE is applied.

I think this issue is long overdue and needs to be discussed by Councillors in an open and reasoned way taking into account the public purse.

Reasons for Contracting Out

- 1) Reduction of costs
- 2) Value for money for the public
- 3) Lack of machinery that Gainsborough Town Council own
- 4) Expertise of a specialist contractor

Effects of Contracting Out

- 1) Staff - TUPE transfer
- 2) Public dissatisfaction
- 3) Office staff - resentment - fear
- 4) Public perception, Councils reputation damaged.

Having spoken to Councillor Key and got some rough figures off the Financial Budget Comparison Sheets for this year it appears that significant amounts of money are spent on Grounds Maintenance and related costs, these will be discussed in more detail at Full Council meeting in September.

Seconded by Councillor Key

A general discussion ensued.

The Clerk informed Members on the progress he has made on producing site specifications on all sites.

Members were informed that the general feeling from the Community Services Committee was that the standard of maintenance on the sports grounds was adequate.

RESOLVED to thank Councillor Butler for the motion and will take due consideration of the motion and await the process of the site specification work currently being carried out by the Clerk with a view to putting a recommendation to Council once work complete.

10. HIRE OUT OF ASSETS

The Clerk advised Members that this item was put on the agenda to have a charging policy in place for members of staff to use the Council vehicle etc, but Councillor Key thought the discussion could be taken further to hire out the Councils assets to members of the public.

Members considered opportunities for hiring out of the Council assets and machinery e.g. chair, tables, radios, scaffold tower, machinery etc.

The item was deferred until the next meeting in order for Members to give the idea some thought.

The meeting was closed at 9:12pm

Chairman