

THATCHAM TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of the
Finance and General Purposes Committee
held on Monday 21st January 2019 at 7.00pm
in the Council Chamber, Brownsfield Road, Thattham

Present: Councillor Jason Collis (Chairman)
 Councillors Dan Carter, Mike Cole, Jan Cover, Ellen Crumly,
 Richard Crumly, Julie Goode, Nathan Gregory and David Lister

In attendance: Mel Alexander (Town Clerk) and Barbara Moffat (Responsible Financial Officer)
 Councillor Lee Dillon
 Dave Carter (Chairman, Thattham Youth)
 1 member of the press (Newbury Weekly News)

FGP/2019/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence had been received.

FGP/2019/02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Carter declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item number 6 (FGP/2019/06) as a supporter of Thattham Town Football Club, and a pecuniary interest in agenda item number 7 (FGP/2019/07) as an employee of Berkshire Youth, on behalf of Thattham Youth.

Councillors E. and R. Crumly declared non-pecuniary interests in agenda item number 6 (FGP/2019/06) as supporters of Thattham Town Football Club and recipients of hospitality from the Club during the Mayoral year 2017-18.

FGP/2019/03 MINUTES

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting held on 5th November 2018, having been previously circulated, be taken as read and signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

FGP/2019/04 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

a) Clerk's Report

FGP/2018/53 - REVENUE GRANT APPLICATIONS 2018/19

Letters of thanks for grants awarded at the last meeting of this Committee had been received from the following organisations:

- Berkshire MS Therapy Centre
- Newbury Family Counselling Service
- Parenting Special Children

b) Other Matters

There were no other matters arising from the previous meeting.

FGP/2019/05 INVESTMENT MATURITY

Committee considered a report from the Responsible Financial Officer regarding renewal of an investment with Close Brothers, due to mature on 12th February 2019.

RESOLVED

that the investment with Close Brothers be rolled over into a new fixed term deposit upon maturity on 12th February 2019.

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FGP/2019/06 THATCHAM TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

At a meeting of this Committee on 22nd October 2018 (FGP/2018/46), Members considered an application from Thatcham Town Football Club for grant funding towards a new Artificial Turf Multi-User Sports Area. Subsequently, Thatcham Town Football Club presented their application to Full Council on 26th November 2018 (FULL/2018/76). Council resolved to agree in principle to support the application for funding and referred this matter back to this Committee for further consideration, along with details of the Town Council's other funding commitments and future project funding requirements which were presented in a report from the Town Clerk. Councillor Dillon advised that West Berkshire Council was undertaking a Pitch Strategy which could provide the Club with evidence to use when sourcing funding.

RESOLVED to award funding of £5,000 from the General Fund to this application.

FGP/2019/07 THATCHAM YOUTH – SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT

Committee was advised that the Service Level Agreement between Thatcham Town Council and Thatcham Youth, for provision of the services listed below, was due to expire on 31st March 2019:

- £3,000 towards Vision Youth Club staff salaries
- £2,000 towards delivery of a monthly Roller Disco

RESOLVED to suspend Standing Orders to allow the Chairman of Thatcham Youth, Dave Carter, to address the Committee.

Mr Carter spoke of Thatcham Youth's past and present service provision, along with their Business Plan 2019–2022 and answered Members' questions.

The average attendance at the weekly Vision Youth Club was 45 young people aged 7 to 11 years. The club had 4 paid staff, supported by 5 volunteers. The Club cost £10,500 per annum to run.

The average attendance at the monthly Roller Disco was 100-110. The event was managed entirely by volunteers. An attendance fee of £5 per head, along with the £2,000 grant from the Town Council, just covered the running cost.

Thatcham Youth had also launched a weekly youth club for 11 to 13 year olds, for which funding had been sought from other sources. Average attendance being 15-20 young people and a running cost of £8,000 per annum. Funding had been secured for 2019-20 but was needed for 2020-21 onwards.

Mr Carter concluded by requesting that the Service Level Agreement be continued and, if possible, increased funding be awarded.

Mr Carter left the meeting

Having declared a pecuniary interest, Councillor Carter left the Council Chamber whilst this item was discussed

RESOLVED to reinstate Standing Orders

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- FGP/2019/07 THATCHAM YOUTH – SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT continued**
RESOLVED to renew the Service Level Agreement between Thatcham Town Council and Thatcham Youth for a further three years, along with the following funding, for the purpose of delivering their Business Plan 2019-2022:
- £6,000 for 2019/20 (taking £1,000 from the “Youth” Earmarked Reserve to top-up the £5,000 in the draft estimates)
 - £6,500 for 2020/21
 - £7,000 for 2021/22

Councillor Carter re-joined the meeting

FGP/2019/08 BUDGET AND POLICIES 2019-20

- RESOLVED** a) Committee considered draft estimates for the year 2019-20. to recommend to Full Council a zero increase to the Band D tax base equivalent, resulting in a precept demand of £723,586 with the balance of £7,840 being taken from General Reserves.

Councillor Dillon left the meeting

- b) Committee considered the following draft Policies:
- General Reserves Policy 2019-20
 - Earmarked Reserves Policy 2019-20
- RESOLVED** that the Earmarked Reserves Policy be updated to reflect the use of £1,000 from the “Youth” Earmarked Reserve as per Minute number FGP/2019/07 above.
- RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that the General Reservices Policy 2019-20 and the Earmarked Reserves Policy 2019-20, as amended, be adopted.

FGP/2019/09 BUDGET / EXPENDITURE COSTS

- a) Committee received details of proposed BACS and cheque payments due from the Imprest account
- RESOLVED** to approve the payments and that Councillors Cole and E. Crumly be appointed to sign the cheques and endorse the relevant documentation.
- b) Committee received details of pre-authorised payments made from the Imprest account and Clerk’s account during the period October 2018 to December 2018.
- RESOLVED** to note the payments.
- c) Committee received bank reconciliations for the Current Account, Clerk’s Account, Petty Cash, Public Sector Deposit Fund and Cricket Club Deposit Account.
- RESOLVED** to note the bank reconciliations.
- d) Committee received a report on Earmarked Reserves and CIL/s106 funds held.
- RESOLVED** to note the report.

FGP/2019/10 REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCIL APPOINTEES

There were no reports from Town Council appointees.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____