

**Minutes of the meeting of the
FINANCE COMMITTEE held on
Monday, 1st December 2014 at 8.15pm
in the Committee Room, Freight House, Bradley Way, Rochford.**

Present: Chairman Cllr Mrs L Haskew, Vice Chairman Cllr L Sampson, Cllr K Binding, Cllr V Leach (ex-officio), Cllr R Patient (ex-officio), Cllr Mrs L Shaw, Cllr J Tutton, Cllr D Weir, Cllr Mrs M Weir and Cllr Mrs P Young.

Standing Order 6n. Resolution `that in view of the new Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations made on 5th August 2014 SO 6n (Photographing, recording, broadcasting or transmitting the proceedings of a meeting by any means is not permitted without the Council's prior written consent) be suspended`.

60. To receive apologies for non-attendance at meeting:

All Members were present.

61. Declarations of any:

a. Disclosable Pecuniary Interest;

b. Other Pecuniary Interest; or

c. Non-Pecuniary Interest

on any matter on the agenda for 1st December 2014:

None were declared.

62. Public Forum:

None Present.

63. To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 10th November 2014 and to approve the destruction of the notes in respect of that meeting:

The Minutes of the meeting were approved as a correct record and Members approved the destruction of the notes in respect of that meeting.

64. Action Update List - December 2014:

64.1 The Clerk updated that Belchamps may be selected as a venue for the Crucial Crew which may result in a request for more funding; a Stambridge Parish Councillor was driving this rather than it going through the RHALC. Cllr Mrs Young added she had heard that Belchamps had been provisionally booked for the Crucial Crew for June.

64.2 The Clerk reported that Barclays Bank were processing the Bank Mandate at a slow pace and she would chase them up.

64.3 Cllr Mrs Young reported to the Hawkwell Village Hall Committee that the Parish Office was earmarked for renovation. The Clerk had sought to find out whether a rent increase would take place and it wasn't known at the time but if so, it was likely to be around £50.

Members noted and **accepted** the Action Update List.

65. Financial Report – November 2014:

The Clerk reported expenditure over budget was on track. There were no questions and Members **accepted** the Financial Report.

66. Agree Amended Finance Budget for 2015/16:

Cllr Mrs Haskew recommended Budget Bid 3.

Cllr Leach referred to salaries and 2.2% increase effective January 2015. The Clerk clarified the increase which was reflected in the budget.

Cllr Mrs Shaw advised the number of Xmas Parcels may need to reduce from 200 next year if the budget remained the same at £2k; this was debated briefly and it was noted that it would be discussed further at the next General Purposes meeting.

Cllr Mrs Haskew moved from the Chair for acceptance of the amended Finance Budget Bid 3 for 2015/16 and this was agreed.

67. Consider and Approve Budget Proposals (Draft 1 or 2) from Parks Committee for 2015/16:

Parks Budget Proposal Draft 2 for 2015/16 was put before the Committee and this was **accepted**.

68. Consider Overall Budget for 2015/16:

The Clerk clarified the precept increase would be 3.45% which may change slightly on receipt of the tax base figures. Cllr Weir reminded Members that at one time Council's Reserves were drained and it took years to re-build them back up; Cllr Mrs Haskew responded that budgets for 2015/16 were realistic and there was no need to call upon reserves but she would keep that in mind.

69. Receive Internal Audit Report (Interim) for 2014/15:

The Clerk was congratulated on the report which was noted.

70. Approve Staff Xmas Lunch – Chairman's Fund:

Members were in full support and this was **approved**.

71. Membership Renewal – SLCC (£187):

The SLCC membership renewal was **approved** (£187).

72. Summary of Decisions:

- Approved Finance Budget Bid 3 for 2015/16.
- Approved Parks Budget Bid 2 for 2015/16.
- Staff Xmas Lunch Approved (Chairman's Fund).
- SLCC Membership Renewal approved (£187).

The meeting was closed at 8.30pm.

Chairman

Please recycle this document from within the Full Council Papers for use at the next Standing Committee Meeting.