

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE  
MEETING HELD AT 8PM ON MONDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2013 IN THE COUNCIL  
CHAMBER, CIVIC HALL, POYNTON

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr C Gorst

Cllrs. G Bartos, M Beanland, L A Clarke, A Smith and G Smith

Attending under SO 51: Cllr P Hoyland substituting for Cllr H Murray

Attending under SO 53: Cllr Mrs S Horsman

41. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Mrs J Saunders and M C G Sewart

42. Declarations of Pecuniary or Other Interests/Requests for dispensations

In terms of item 5 on the agenda – Civic Hall hire rates, the Chairman mentioned that the Conservative group meet once a month at the Civic Hall. Did this mean that members needed to declare an interest? Cllr Clarke explained that in previous years members of that group have declared a Non-Pecuniary interest.

43. Minutes of the previous meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> January 2013

**RESOLVED: That the minutes of the extraordinary F&GP meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2013 be approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman (NC)**

44. Payment Schedules for December 2012 and January 2013

The Clerk clarified that the entry for Spectacular Fireworks on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2012 was in fact for the lighting of the Christmas trees.

The Chairman enquired about an entry in January 2013 for £180, Parish on-line census up date. The Clerk explained that this is for a software licence to produce local maps.

**RESOLVED: That the Payment Schedules for December 2012 and January 2013 be received and signed by the Chairman (NC)**

#### 45. Civic Hall Hire Rates for 2013/14

The Clerk provided a written brief on Civic Hall hire rates for 2013/14. He said that the Town Council generally apply an annual inflationary increase on the hire rates. Given that CPI is currently around 3% such an increase would seem to be reasonable. There is a healthy level of bookings at present but this may be disrupted when building work takes place in the summer. Utility prices are also likely to increase during the year, particularly gas.

The Chairman asked if there were any alternative venues. The Clerk explained that the Civic Hall houses the largest recreation hall. There is no local alternative for badminton and it is also the largest venue around and in increasing demand. Cllr Clarke felt that a 3% rise was fair. Cllr Hoyland asked how other venues and charges compare to the Civic Hall. The Clerk replied that for example the Methodist Church is considering lifting their charges on a par with the Civic Hall. The facilities at the Civic Hall are very good, and compare well with say the Community Centre. There is also a logic to the pricing at the Civic Hall, with the scale of charges corresponding to room size. The annual rental income is around £45,000 – the Town Council's only source of income other than the precept and grant funding.

**RESOLVED: That the written report is received and a 3% increase for Civic Hall hire rates in 2013/14 approved (NC)**

#### 46. Visitor Economy

The Chairman explained that the Operations and Events Manager, Richard Holland, had confirmed that the first visitor leaflet is about to be proofed and printed in the next fortnight. The Clerk added that the mini-leaflet is a hand out with a simplified map of the village. On the reverse it includes all of the eateries with a brief write up on each. The intention in due course is to provide a larger version of the village map with eatery information arranged around the border. This will then be positioned in places such as the Macclesfield Canal and Middlewood Way. Richard Holland has a meeting with the Rivers and Canals Trust to look at the location of the canal notice board.

The Chairman also explained that there is the idea of having a gazebo at events such as the Poynton Show and possibly at the re-launch of the School Lane retail area plus other events during the year.

**RESOLVED: That the written update on the Visitor Economy Working Group is received (NC)**

#### 47. Train Services at Middlewood Station

The Chairman provided a verbal update based on a written account he had made (attached) of a meeting with Transport for Greater Manchester on

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2013. He had met Roy Chapman, a senior member involved in planning train timetables.

Cllr Hoyland suggested specifically inviting Mr Chapman to future events in Poynton such as the Summer Fest and Poynton Show.

**RESOLVED: That the verbal report from Cllr Gorst is received and that he and the Clerk will progress the issue (NC)**

The meeting concluded at 8.30 pm