

SANDBACH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance Committee held at 7.15pm on 25 September 2003 at the CVS offices, Hope Street, Sandbach.

PRESENT

Councillors: M R Sherman, Chairman
 Councillors: Mrs P E M Price
 D Lloyd-Griffiths
 J J Moore
 L Morris
 J M Keeling, Chairman of the Council

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors: B E Moran, Vice-Chairman
 N T Price
 E A Lea
 W W Scragg

2. FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR APPROVAL

RESOLVED: that the statement is approved subject to the correction to the opening balance figure.

3. CASH PROJECTION FOR APPROVAL

This included a formal review of performance against budget.

There was some debate on how the Council's budget might be affected by the setting up of a unitary authority.

It seemed unlikely that any of the budget items would be exceeded.

The Clerk's salary is set at SCP34 on the local Government scale. This increased by 3.5% at 1 April 2003.

RESOLVED: that the increase is confirmed.

RESOLVED: that the statement is approved.

4. CONFIRM STATEMENT OF 'EAR MARKED' RESERVES

This included a formal review of each item.

CCC Library extension **£6,000**

Mr A Bell of the Library Service, had written to say that the library extension had been delayed because of the possible need for a "one-stop-shop" if Westfields are to move to Junction 17.

RESOLVED: that Mr Bell is told that if there is no progress on the project within three months time the Town Council will review the project with the possibility of withdrawing the offer.

Street Lighting	£2,500
RESOLVED: that the reserve is made available for any appropriate Sandbach street lighting project.	
Joint Highways - Cobbles	£10,000
RESOLVED: that the Clerk writes to Joint Highways to obtain details of the timing of the proposed work.	
Cheshire Constabulary	£16,500
RESOLVED: that the item is retained.	
Congleton CVS Finger Posts	£338
RESOLVED: that the item is removed from the list and the money returned to general reserves.	
Town Hall Lift & Disabled Toilets	£15,000
RESOLVED: that the item is retained.	
Town Boundary signs	£1,808
RESOLVED: that the item is retained and that the installation of the missing sign on the old Crewe Road is put in hand.	
Organisations re Disabilities Act	£10,000
RESOLVED: that the item is retained.	
Sandbach Today Event	£500
RESOLVED: that the item is removed from the list and the money returned to general reserves.	
Sandbach Partnership	£2,000
RESOLVED: that the item is retained.	
Offley Infant School	£500
Payment is due to be made during the next few days.	
RESOLVED: that the item is retained.	
3rd Sandbach Scouts	£250
RESOLVED: that the item is retained.	
St John Sandbach Heath	£2,500
RESOLVED: that the item is retained.	
CBC HERS contribution	£20,215
RESOLVED: that the item is retained.	
Election Reserve	£5,798
RESOLVED: that the item is retained.	
Equipment Replacement Reserve	£3,877
RESOLVED: that the item is retained but that the budget contribution is reviewed at the next budget setting meeting.	
RESOLVED: that the statement is approved.	

5. LETTERS OF THANKS FOR DONATIONS

5.1 Offley Road School

A letter is attached stating that building work has started and that payment of the grant is now required.

RESOLVED: that the letter is received.

5.2 Royal British Legion (Sandbach)

A letter of thanks for help towards their book "The Men Who Marched Away" is attached.

RESOLVED: that the letter is received.

5.3 Sandbach Photographic Society

Letter of thanks for £200 donation for the purchase of equipment.

RESOLVED: that the letter is received.

6. APPLICATIONS FOR DONATIONS

6.1 Open Minds application to fund event on 11 October

Application form sent out 18 August.

RESOLVED: that it will be considered when the form is received.

6.2 The North West Army Cadet Force

An application form had been received.

RESOLVED: that a grant of £500 is made.

6.3 1873 Sandbach Squadron ATC

An application form had been received.

RESOLVED: that a grant of £500 is made.

6.4 Sandbach Voices

An application form had been received requesting a grant of £250.

Members feared that local organisations might become too dependent upon Town Council grants.

RESOLVED: that a grant of £150 is made and that they are told of the Council's concern.

6.5 Sandbach Festival of Transport

They continued support from the Town Council. They have been given an application form.

RESOLVED: that the budget sum of £1000 is released following the receipt of a satisfactorily completed form and that the Committee wished the best of luck for another very successful day.

6.6 Sandbach Today

Following questions from STC with regard to last year's accounts Sandbach Today decided to withdraw their application for funds but submitted an alternative application for an organisation called Sandbach Youth "The Event". With one vote against it was

RESOLVED: that a grant of £500 is made on the condition that detailed financial account of the event is given to the Council.

7. USE OF APPLICATION FORM

RESOLVED: that in future the form will be required before each annual budget donation is made with the exception of those made for Churchyard maintenance.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 NatWest Bank

The Capital Reserve account in which the Council has most of its money invested is no longer available for new customers. The rate of interest has reduced to 1.46%. A new Bonus Saver account has been introduced that offers about 1% more but is subject to a single quarterly withdrawal without penalty.

RESOLVED: that the Council closes the Capital Reserve account and opens a New Bonus Saver account.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk makes enquiries about alternative banking facilities.

9. MATTERS REFERRED FROM THE TOWN COUNCIL

9.1 Foden CVS Building, Hope Street Richardson Band

The Town Council agreed to make a donation of £2,000 subject to the Finance Committee's confirmation that funds are available.

RESOLVED: that the funds are approved.

9.2 Proposed RAF Cranage Exhibition

The Town Hall was not available for the remembrance weekend at the time the enquiry was made. A booking was therefore made with the Sandbach Literary Institution following an inspection with Mrs Peters Rock for the Friday, Saturday and Sunday at a fee of £50.

RESOLVED: that the arrangements including the fee are approved.

10. MATTERS REFERRED FROM PREVIOUS FINANCE MEETING

10.1 Sandbach County Primary School (Item 6.6)

Cllr B Moran reported via the Finance Committee Chairman that details and costs for moving the nursery school into the main building from mobiles in the playground and the provision of a landscaped play area were not yet available. He requested that the item was postponed to the next Finance Committee meeting.

RESOLVED: that the item is postponed to the next meeting.

11. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: that the next meeting of the Finance Committee takes place at 7.15pm on 6 November 2003 at the CVS in Hope Street.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

M R Sherman
Chairman

Ref: FCM250903