

SANDBACH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance Committee held at 7.15pm on 6 November 2003 at the CVS offices, Hope Street, Sandbach.

PRESENT

Councillors: M R Sherman, Chairman
 Mrs P E M Price
 B E Moran, Vice-Chairman
 N T Price
 D Lloyd-Griffiths
 J J Moore
 L Morris
 W W Scragg
 J M Keeling, Chairman of the Council

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors: E A Lea
 J Iddon

2. FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR APPROVAL

RESOLVED: that the statement is approved.

3. CASH PROJECTION FOR APPROVAL

RESOLVED: that the statement is approved.

4. CONFIRM STATEMENT OF 'EAR MARKED' RESERVES

RESOLVED: that the statement is approved.

5. BUDGET FOR 2004/3

The attached draft budget was discussed at length without reaching any agreement for approval but without any individual item being adjusted. The provision for a Sandbach Police Constable was a substantial proportion of the budget. The Clerk agreed to send new members copies of last year's minutes that referred to the proposal.

RESOLVED: that the proposed precept of £82,400 (an increase of 3.2%) is recommended to the Council.

RESOLVED: that the draft budget is re-submitted to the next Finance meeting with an explanation based upon a statement of assumptions made and supported by actual spend during the previous year if the spend was over estimated, for each budget adjustment.

6. EXTERNAL AUDIT

Mainly because of the Council's contribution to the refurbishment of the Sandbach Town Hall the expenditure in 2002/3 was greater than £100,000. Consequently the external auditor has stated that they will be carrying out an intermediate audit.

RESOLVED: that the external auditor's Intermediate Audit Supplementary Information and Request Assurance is approved by the Council.

7. REVIEW OF PROGRESS ON THE SANDBACH TOWN COUNCIL WEBSITE

A brief review was given by the Clerk.

RESOLVED: that the site is maintained.

8. LETTERS OF THANKS FOR DONATIONS

8.1 The North West Army Cadet Force

RESOLVED: that their letter is received.

8.2 Sandbach Voices

RESOLVED: that their letter is received.

9. APPLICATIONS FOR DONATIONS

9.1 Open Minds application to fund event on 11 October

Application form sent out 18 August but not yet returned.

RESOLVED: that their application is removed from the list.

9.2 Sandbach Festival of Transport

They have been given an application form but it has not yet been returned. It is expected that they will apply early in the new year.

9.3 Sandbach Talking Newspaper

The Chairman declared an interest and took no part in the debate.

They had submitted an application form for a grant of £1,000 towards the equipment of a proposed new studio.

RESOLVED: that they are awarded a full grant of £1,000.

9.4 Sandbach Christmas Lights Festival

They had submitted an application form for a grant of £600.

RESOLVED: that they are awarded a full grant of £600.

9.5 CAD Councils against Dumping

Middlewich TC, Holmes Chapel PC and Sproston PC sought support for their campaign against a waste disposal site at Kinderton Lodge, Sproston.

RESOLVED: that the Council send a letter of sympathy for their concerns but the Town Council has not yet debated the issue and therefore is unable to take a position on the matter.

9.6 Cheshire Community Council – Local Network Fund

They ask whether we know of any voluntary groups working with children and young people, up to the age of 19 who could benefit

from a grant of between £250 and £7,000. The information has been forwarded to Sandbach Youth Project.

RESOLVED: that the action is noted.

9.7 Sandbach County Primary School

At the Committee's request Cllr B Moran provided information that the school wanted a grant of £1,250 plus VAT (£1,468.75) to provide landscaping for their new nursery area.

RESOLVED: that they are awarded a full grant of £1,468.75.

(Cllr Moran has since stated that the amount required is less VAT i.e. £1,250.)

10. CORRESPONDENCE

10.1 NatWest Bank

The application form for the New Bonus Saver account has been received and submitted to the Bank. They in turn have requested that the signatories show their documentation to the bank for a second time.

RESOLVED: that the information is noted.

10.2 Joint Highways – Cobbles

A letter from Roy Spicer suggested that a meeting of interested parties should be held to establish the correct course of action.

RESOLVED: that the Town Council would wish to be represented by three councillors (2 Conservative and 1 Liberal Democrat) to be appointed at the next Council meeting subject to the Council's approval.

11. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: that the next meeting of the Finance Committee takes place at 7.15pm on 22 January 2004 at the CVS Building in Hope Street.

The meeting closed at 9 pm.

M R Sherman
Chairman

Ref: FCM061103