

Minutes of the **FINANCE and GENERAL PURPOSES** Committee meeting held in the Town Hall, The Broadway, Crowborough on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2015 at 7.30pm

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Present	Councillors	Quentin Burch Peter Ellefsen David Larkin Kay Moss Alan Penney Ron Reed Greg Rose Sandra Timms Neil Waller	Chairman        Vice-Chairman
Also present		Cllr George Moss Cllr David Neeves Cllr Richard Stogdon Cllr Jeannette Towey Philippa Hewes 21 members of the public	Crowborough Town Council (9.35pm) Crowborough Town Council East Sussex County Council Wealden District Council Town Clerk

*\* Denotes non attendance*

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There was one minute of silence in respect of Peter Cowie, a serving District Councillor and former Town Councillor and Mayor and who had passed away.

### **APOLOGIES**

None.

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Quentin Burch declared a personal interest in the Society of the Friends of Montargis as a member.

Cllr Peter Ellefsen declared a prejudicial interest in Citizens Advice as the Council's representative.

Cllr Kay Moss declared a personal interest in the Society of the Friends of Montargis as a member, a personal interest in Crowborough Bonfire and Carnival Society as the group had given a donation to Crowborough Community First Responders, and a prejudicial interest in Clued-up.Info as a Council representative and a Trustee.

Cllr Ron Reed declared personal interests in the Society of the Friends of Montargis as a member and Jarvis Brook Community Centre as one of the Mayor's charities.

Cllr Greg Rose declared a personal interest in the Society of the Friends of Montargis as a member.

Cllr Sandra Timms declared a prejudicial interest in Clued-up.Info as a Council representative and a Trustee.

#### Minutes – 8<sup>th</sup> September 2015

Clarification was requested on items regarding the Financial Regulations and the Business Plan. There was a request for Financial Regulations to be included on the next agenda and for training to be undertaken.

**7565** **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2015 as confirmed be signed by the Chairman.

#### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

##### To receive reports from representatives to support grant applications

The Chairman welcomed representatives from the various groups.

A representative from St Johns Pre-School spoke of the need for a new computer and how this technology plays an important part in the education provided to the children.

Crowborough and District Anglers explained that a grant would be used towards the cost of holding a junior fishing day to teach young anglers how to fish and to respect the countryside.

A report was given on the success of outings achieved this year and plans for the future of the RVS Crowborough Darby & Joan Club. As requested by the Town Council in 2013, the group had liaised with other groups providing events for elderly people and this had resulted in an increase in membership. The cost of transport continues to be the main expenditure.

A representative from Crowborough Wolfe Bowling Club explained why a new equipment storage facility is required and that the preferred solution is to locate this on the same level as the bowling green. A grant is requested towards the cost of the project.

The continued success of the Crowborough Arts Open Studios event was reported with 40 artists participating this year at 23 venues. A grant is requested towards publicity for the event in 2016.

The Chairman of Crowborough Swimming Club spoke of the events next year to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Club and the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the swimming gala with Montargis and Greven. It is planned to invite Crowborough's twinned town of Horwich to participate in the activities. A grant would be used towards the cost of holding the events.

There was a report on the weekend of events planned by the Society of the Friends of Montargis to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning. A grant would be used towards the cost of entertaining guests; considerable fund raising has been undertaken by the Society.

A representative from Ditch the Slippers provided background information on the group and the type of activities provided for older people in Crowborough. A grant would be used to support further activities.

There was a report by the Crowborough Bonfire and Carnival Society on the activities of Carnival Day. A grant is requested towards the cost of hosting the event.

A grant was requested by the Jarvis Brook Community Centre to cover the cost of the Funday next July; this will enable all profits to go towards the proposed new centre.

A report was given on the work of Home Start. A grant would be used towards the demand for help with families in Crowborough.

#### To review progress reports from Clued-up.Info and Citizens Advice

Written reports had been provided detailing information on the key performance indicators under the Service Level Agreements.

Dick Partridge of Clued-up.Info reported on the progress of activities and the support given to young people on a range of complex issues. A funding bid is being prepared for submission to Wealden District Council in order to continue to provide the service. One member reported that following a restructure at Beacon Academy, Clued-up.Info is the only source of independent advice for young people.

Kay Birch of Wealden Citizens Advice expanded on the written report. The office is now open five days a week, offering advice on a wide range of services through various communication channels. The Lottery funding finishes next year and alternative funding opportunities are being explored.

## GRANTS

### To consider grant applications for the financial year 2016/17

Each grant application was discussed in detail. It was suggested that any grant to Crowborough Wolfe Bowling Club is made subject to the receipt of planning permission and that any funding for Crowborough Arts should be towards the production of the brochure.

Cllr Kay Moss and Cllr Sandra Timms left the meeting.

**7566** **RESOLVED** to award Clued-up.Info a grant of £20,500.

Cllr Kay Moss and Cllr Sandra Timms returned to the meeting.

**7567** **RESOLVED** to award Citizens Advice Bureau a grant of £20,500.

**7568** **RESOLVED** to award the following grants:

- RVS Crowborough Darby & Joan Club £1700
- Crowborough Wolfe Bowling Club £3250
- St Johns Pre-School £725
- Crowborough Arts £300
- Beacon Swimming Club £2500
- Ditch the Slippers £1200
- Crowborough & District Anglers Association £305
- Crowborough Bonfire & Carnival Society £1500
- Jarvis Brook Community Centre £500
- Home Start £1580

**7569** **RESOLVED** to award The Society of the Friends of Montargis a grant of £3000 for twinning activities.

The applications from ENGage and Revitalise Respite Holidays were not successful.

Total grants of £54,560 were awarded with an additional £3000 for twinning.

## FINANCE

### Management Account Reports to 31<sup>st</sup> August and 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015

**7570** **RESOLVED** to adopt the Management Accounts for the 31<sup>st</sup> August and 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015

Aged debts

The current position on aged debts was reviewed and noted.

To review Finance and General Purposes Committee projected spend to the end of the financial year, reserves and draft budget 2016/17

The projected spend, reserves and draft budget were reviewed. A further reduction is expected in the Council Tax Support Grant. Costs for Pine Grove have not been included in the draft budget.

**TO REVIEW REPORT ON INVESTMENTS**

A schedule of the investments was reviewed and noted.

**ASSETS**

To review report on asset movements since 1.04.15

The report on asset movements since the beginning of the financial year was reviewed and noted.

**URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR NOTING**

None.

The meeting closed at 9.33 pm