

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE OF BRACKLEY TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE UPPER HALL, TOWN HALL, BRACKLEY ON MONDAY 21st JUNE 2010 at 7.08 pm

Present: The Worshipful the Town Mayor (Councillor Chris Blunden)
Councillors C S Billingham, K D Bonner-Dunham, D Dunham (Chairman)
T D Hayward, L Ross, D Shaw (7.30 pm) W B Stimpson and P M Stocker.

Apologies: Councillor C O Cartmell

In attendance: Councillors K Dixon and P Joyce

104. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Interest declared by Councillor Stocker in item 114 of Lit of Accounts 3B.

105. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Finlayson, St Annes Close, referred to Minute 485/10 regarding a Vehicle Activated Sign. He asked if there had been any progress and whether all the necessary signatures had been obtained. Councillor Ross advised that a further 50 were still required and he would persevere to get the matter completed.

106. MEMBERS INTERNAL AUDITOR

Members were advised that Councillor Titchener had agreed to take on the role of internal auditor. Members noted.

107. DONATIONS

Members were advised that letters of thanks had been received from the Citizens Advice Bureau and South Northants Volunteer Bureau for the Town Council's donations for 2010/2011. Members noted.

108. MEMBERS REPORTS

Activities of the Finance and Policy Committee for 2010/11 – Councillor Dunham

A report had been circulated prior to the Meeting requesting Members support for a plan or schedule of activities for the Finance and Policy Committee which contained a list of possible topics/activities for consideration for 2010/11. Members were also invited to contribute other items to the list.

Councillor Stimpson said he had no problem with considering the matters. Referring to the items relating to the election and roles of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, he said he saw no benefit in change and felt these should continue as at the moment. He also said he saw no purpose in establishing a human resources working party as this Council was very small, although very active. Councillor Dunham commented the matters were for discussion and nothing needed to be changed regarding the roles. He also commented that the human resources working party and schedule of activities had been suggested by the Town Clerk.

Councillor Billingham said she would like more information before discussing the items. Councillor Bonner-Dunham proposed that the Chairman put forward a better proposal outlining the bullet points to be discussed and bring to future meetings.

108. MEMBERS REPORTS Cont'd.....

Councillor Billingham suggested combining a) Human Resource working party and training, b) selection and role of Mayor and Deputy Mayor, and c) Role of Members and d) review and update of Standing Orders and Policy for media relations so that the items would be tabled over four consecutive meetings.

It was therefore

RESOLVED:

That the Chairman put forward the topics in small sections, as suggested by Councillor Billingham, outlining more fully the points to be discussed, and that these be brought to future meetings.

109. LOCAL COUNCILS CONFERENCE

Councillor Bonner-Dunham circulated a copy of her report on the above conference which she attended with the Town Mayor. The report outlined the presentations and workshops and gave detailed information on the Northamptonshire Councils Charter which had been discussed by the Town Council in February 2010 which resolved not to support the document. Councillor Bonner-Dunham had been unable to attend this meeting and requested that this be brought to the next Council meeting for further discussion. Councillor Stimpson said the matter had been fully discussed and it had been decided not to proceed. Councillor Billingham said she had read all the Charter and stood by her comments made at the February meeting. She also advised that a report had gone to South Northamptonshire Council and it had also decided not to support the document. Councillor Bonner-Dunham said the Charter was a working relationship, not a quango or hierarchy and she felt more consideration should be given to this. Councillor Billingham replied that if every Member decided that matters should be re-discussed if they were not at a meeting, a decision would never be made and matters cannot be re-visited before a period of six months had elapsed, if a resolution had been made. Councillor Ross agreed with these comments. Councillor Dunham suggested that if the Charter was signed it did not mean that we had follow it through.

Members agreed that the matter be brought to a meeting after six months had elapsed.

110. FINANCE REPORTS

List of Accounts

List of Accounts 3B had been circulated with the Agenda. It was

RESOLVED:

That List of Accounts 3B in the sum of £28,141.04 be approved and passed for payment.

110. FINANCE REPORTS Cont'd.....

Income Report – given to Chairman

111. INFORMATION REPORTS

- a) NCALC Update
- b) Northants 50+ Network Newsletter

111. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was

RESOLVED:

That the press and public be excluded from this Meeting during discussion on matters relating to staff matters as publicity would be prejudicial to the public by nature of the business to be transacted.

112. STAFF APPRAISAL

Councillor Billingham said she had undertaken the Town Clerk's appraisal and this was required to be noted at a Meeting. It was

RESOLVED:

That Members noted the Town Clerk's appraisal had been undertaken.

113. CONGRATULATION LETTERS

Councillor Billingham sought Members support for letters of congratulations to be sent to Councillor Sandra Barnes on being awarded an MBE for her services to local government and to Tim Boswell on being appointed to the House of Lords and also to thank him for his service to Brackley and the surrounding district. It was agreed that these letters be sent.