

Kingsbridge Town Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD AT 6.30 p.m. ON TUESDAY 1 DECEMBER 2015 IN QUAY HOUSE

Present: Cllr Anne Balkwill (Chairman)
Cllr Barrie Fishman
Cllr Robin Griffin
Cllr Wayne Grills
Cllr Irene Jeeninga
Cllr Chris Povey
Cllr Jax Williams

In Attendance: Two Members of Public
Martin Johnson (Town Clerk)

15/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Martina Edmonds.

Public Open Forum

A member of public present supported the draft budget which identified an increase in Precept/Council Tax in order to provide enhanced services and facilities.

15/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Balkwill declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 15/22 (Budget for FY 2016/17: Grant Aid for Cookworthy Museum).

15/20 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Members received minutes of the last meeting held on 20 October 2015 which were approved as a correct record.

15/21 FEES AND CHARGES

Members were in receipt of Fees and Charges effective from 1 April 2015, alongside a covering breakdown of charges from 1 April 2011 to date, and a thorough review was completed. It was **RECOMMENDED** for:

- Fixed leases/rents for Age Concern and Creeks End Bin Store to be noted.
- Anticipated new lease for the Rear Hall to be noted.
- All permanent room rentals in Quay House for Rooms 8, 9, 10 & 12 to be increased by 5% in recognition of increased utilities' charges and anticipated internal maintenance works.
- Recently revised room rental for Room 4 to be retained.
- Casual room rentals for the Council Chamber, Rooms 3 & 7 to be retained.
- Allotment rents to be increased to £38 for a full plot and £23 for a half plot.
- Bandstand hire charges to be retained.

- Gazebo hire to be increased to £25 each per day.
- Projector/screen hire to be increased to £25.
- Play equipment hire to be charged at £10 for each sport.
- Hire of equipment to be well promoted.
- Photocopying charges to be retained.
- All Embankment Road Cemetery fees to be increased by 5% in recognition of ongoing maintenance/works.

A listing of proposed Fees and Charges for financial year 2016/17 is at Annex A.

15/22 BUDGET FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2016/17

Members noted a press release printed in the Kingsbridge & Salcombe Gazette on 27 November which identified KTC's ambitions and that the budget process was underway. Members then received a listing of current local council Precepts, a briefing paper and a draft budget. The draft budget was carefully considered and various amendments were made. In particular it was noted/agreed that:

- South Hams District Council was likely to reduce the Council Tax Support Grant by 9.9%.
- Quay House building maintenance (cost code 52) would not cover earmarked renewal of stairs/landing vinyl and build of a wheelchair accessible toilet. Funding would be required from Reserves subject to competitive quotations.
- Suggested fencing for the Embankment Road Cemetery estuary perimeter to be deferred pending further investigation. Funding would be required from Reserves subject to competitive quotations.
- Suggested fencing for Trebblepark Allotments adjacent to Courtlage Walk entrance to be deferred pending further investigation. Funding would be required from Reserves subject to competitive quotations.
- Grant Aid (Recreational & Social) (cost code 130) to be reduced and to be managed by one round of applications only.
- Civic Event (cost code 186) to be reduced to zero.
- Extra funding at circa £3,000 for decorative lighting extension to Memorial Shelter to be funded from Reserves.
- Anticipated Solar Farm community benefit (cost code 270) to be allocated to CCTV.
- Youth engagement project to be allocated £2,500 (cost code 272).
- Various other projects (including: waymarking/directions to the Recreation Ground along the Quayside footpath, improved pedestrian wayfinder/street signage around town, digital prints/promotions within empty shops) to be worked up.

It was **RECOMMENDED** to progress the draft Income and Expenditure Budget for financial year 2016/17 at Annex B.

15/23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 5 January 2016 at 6.30 p.m. (3rd quarter income & expenditure report for FY 2015/16 and re-consideration of the draft budget for FY 2016/17).

Annexes:

- A. Proposed Fees and Charges for Financial Year 2016/17.
- B. Draft Budget for Financial Year 2016/17.

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.