

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

POLICY COMMITTEE

17th JANUARY, 2012

At a Meeting of the Policy Committee held on 17th January, 2012:

PRESENT Councillors V.J. Allan, T.C.N. Harries, G.M. Jones, Trevor Jones (Chairman), P.G. Mann and D.S. Roberts.

In attendance:
Councillors R.B. Potter and M.E. Rennie.

APOLOGIES for absence was received The Mayor (Councillor T. James) and Councillor R.M. Biggs.

36. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 22nd November, 2011, adopted by Council on 29th November, 2011, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

37. **MINUTES OF OTHER COMMITTEES**

The Committee considered the under-mentioned Minutes of the Committees stated:

(a) Planning and Environment Committee – 3rd January, 2012

Minute 51 – Estimates 2012-13

(b) Management Committee – 10th January, 2012

Minute 45 – Estimates 2012-13

It was

RESOLVED

That these Minutes be considered at Minute 44 below.

38. **INTERNAL AUDIT**

The Committee received and noted a copy of the most recent reports of the Council's Internal Auditor together with the explanations of the points raised in them and the action which had been or would be taken in response to them.

It was

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Internal Auditor be requested to present his future reports typed.
- (2) That the Financial Services Provider be requested to report to the next Meeting of the Council on the current position regarding the receipt of payments from the Municipal Buildings bar franchisee.

39. **MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS**

The Committee received and noted the Council's Management Accounts for the period ended 31st December, 2011.

40. **MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY**

With the approval of the Chairman this item was withdrawn pending a decision on the Council's application for loan sanction approved at Council Minute 48. A revised Strategy would be submitted to the next Meeting of this Committee when there was clarity about the Council's cash position.

Arising from the consideration of this matter it was

RESOLVED

That the Chairmen of this Committee and of the Management Committee together with the Town Clerk be authorised to engage in negotiations with West Dorset District Council on the amount and terms of any loan should the Council's application for loan sanction be granted and to report back to the next Meeting of this Committee.

41. **POSSIBLE ECONOMIES**

In accordance with Minute 29 the Committee gave further consideration to the copy report of the Town Clerk on possible economies together with a copy of the report on the outcome of Weymouth & Portland Borough Council's scrutiny of CCTV.

It was

RESOLVED

That consideration of this matter be further deferred to the next Meeting of this Committee pending a decision on the Council's application for loan sanction approved at Council Minute 48.

42. **DORSET MARTYRS MEMORIAL**

Further to Minute 32 the Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk on possible protection of the Dorset Martyrs Memorial.

An alternative, slightly cheaper, quotation for the insurance of the Memorial had been obtained.

Preliminary investigations suggested that it would be technically difficult to install CCTV surveillance of it due to its distance from other elements of the CCTV system and the large number of trees surrounding it.

It was possible to improve the physical security of the Memorial by installing suitable bollards at both ends of that length of South Walks at a one-off cost of approximately £3,850.

Following discussion it was

RECOMMENDED

That no further action be taken with respect to either the insurance of the Memorial or the installation of CCTV surveillance and that the Town Clerk be requested to arrange for the installation of appropriate bollards as outlined in the report now submitted and that the expenditure be met from the General Reserve in the current financial year.

43. **GENERAL FUND AND SPECIFIC RESERVES BALANCES – 2012-13**

The Committee considered the report of the Financial Services Provider on an appropriate level of General Reserve which it would be prudent for the Council to maintain.

It was

RESOLVED

That the recommendations set out in the report be approved and that the Council maintain a minimum General Reserve in 2012-13 of £280,641.

44. **DRAFT BUDGET AND ESTIMATES – 2012-13**

(a) **Planning and Environment Committee**

The Committee considered the draft Estimates for the Planning and Environment Committee as approved by that Committee at Minute 51 and it was

RECOMMENDED

That the draft Estimates for the Planning and Environment Committee be approved so far as this Committee is concerned subject to the receipt by the Planning and Environment Committee of a presentation from Dorset County Council's Street Lighting Manager on the County Council's future policy regarding the installation of new and maintenance of existing lighting to footpaths prior to the expenditure of the provision of £3,000 in respect of the installation of a street light on the footpath between St. Helen's Road and Cornwall Road.

(b) Management Committee

The Committee considered the draft Estimates for the Management Committee as approved by that Committee at Minute 45.

It was

RECOMMENDED

That the draft Estimates of the Management Committee be approved so far as this Committee is concerned subject to the addition of an item of £1,750 to the Twinning Estimates in respect of the proposed visit of the Mayor of Lübbecke in April, 2012.

(c) Policy Committee

The Committee considered its draft Estimates for 2012-13.

It was

RECOMMENDED

That the draft Estimates for 2012-13 as now submitted be approved.

(d) Budget for 2012-13

The Committee considered the Budget for 2012-13 and the precept required.

It was

RECOMMENDED

(1) That the Revised Estimates for 2011-12 and the Estimates for 2012-13 be approved.

- (2) That a precept in the sum of £1,182,469 be levied on the West Dorset District Council in respect of the financial year 2012-13 requesting that payment be made in two equal instalments on 1st April and 1st October, 2012.

Chairman