



RYDE

TOWN COUNCIL

FINANCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RYDE TOWN COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE
HELD AT 7PM ON TUESDAY 18 JUNE 2019 IN THE COUNCIL MEETING ROOM,
COUNCIL OFFICES, 10 LIND STREET, RYDE, ISLE OF WIGHT.

PRESENT: Councillors Phil Jordan (Chairman), Henry Adams, Adrian Axford, Charles Chapman, Diana Conyers, Julian Critchley, Nancy Farrell, Michael Lilley, Sue Lyons, Lou Temel

IN ATTENDANCE: Gareth Hughes (Responsible Financial Officer), Liz Dutton (Administration Officer)

ALSO PRESENT: 9 members of the public

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: There were no public questions.

79/19 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Wakeley and Stephens.

80/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Adams declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 6 and 7 as he was a regular patron of some of the premises along the route and had family members who had businesses in close proximity to Ryde Seafront.

81/19 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were no requests received.

82/19 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 May 2019 be approved as an accurate record and be signed by the Chairman.

83/19 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Councillor Lilley asked a question regarding the Council's investments and whether due to the increased precept and increased levels of reserves it would be prudent to re-evaluate the Town Council's investment strategy to ensure the Town Council were getting the best return on investments whilst mitigating risk to public funds. The Chairman requested that a report be brought to the July meeting of the Finance meeting outlining potential opportunities.

84/19 MARKETING GRANTS 2019/20

(a) IW Bus & Coach Museum – Ryde Historic (Pub) Walks leaflet

Consideration was given to application for a marketing grant for the leaflets for the 2019 Beer, Buses and Walks weekend which was based in Ryde this year.

RESOLVED:

That a grant of £500 be awarded.

(b) Wight to be Happy – Festival of the Mind

Consideration was given to the application for a marketing grant for the Isle of Wight Festival of the Mind. Members noted the event was not being held in Ryde this year and therefore did not meet the criteria for a marketing grant. However an award could be made under the community grant heading.

RESOLVED:

That a grant of £200 be awarded from the community grant budget.

(c) Ryde Business Association – Modernising the “Town on the Beach” brand by Video

At the discretion of the Chairman this item was deferred to the end of the grants item to allow the applicant to attend.

85/19 COMMUNITY GRANTS 2019/20

(a) Planet Aware CIC - #2MinuteBeachClean Boards for Ryde

Consideration was given to the application for a community grant for the installation of Beach Clean Boards in Ryde to encourage people to participate in a 2 minute beach clean when visiting the beach. After discussion members requested further evidence of the positive impact that similar Beach Clean Boards had made in other areas together with further information regarding the potential issue the litter pickers not being returned to the Board after use.

RESOLVED:

That the application be deferred for further evidence to be submitted on the positive impact that similar Beach Clean Boards had made in other areas.

(b) All Saints' Church – All Saints' Community Project

Consideration was given to an application for a community grant to develop the space at the back of the church for community needs. In awarding the grant the Committee considered the community element that the application aimed to fulfil.

RESOLVED:

That a grant of £1,500 be awarded.

(c) Isle of Wight Pride – Isle of Wight Pride 2019

At this stage Councillor Critchley declared a non-pecuniary interest as he was anticipating on holding a stall at the event.

Consideration was given to the application for a community grant for Isle of Wight Pride 2019. The Committee noted that the event would be scaled back from both the previous events. A representative from IW Pride addressed the meeting to answer questions.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL:

That a grant of £7,000 be awarded and for this amount to be taken from reserves.

86/19 MARKETING GRANTS 2019/20 - Ryde Business Association – Modernising the “Town on the Beach” brand by Video

Consideration was given to the application for a marketing grant for making a short film using drone footage in order to strengthen the Town's marketing opportunities. A representative from RBA attended and answered questions at the meeting. The Committee placed a condition onto the grant that as the Town Council was funding the majority of the cost of the project the Town Council should have free usage of the final product without restriction.

RESOLVED:

That a grant of £1,444 be awarded with a condition that the Town Council have free usage without restriction to the final product.

87/19 MAYOR'S CHARITY

The Responsible Financial Officer informed the Committee of the arrangements for payments to the Mayors Charity. He confirmed that any money raised would be paid into the bank account of Ryde Town Council before being paid out to the Mayor's chosen charity. The Committee noted the arrangements.

88/19 COMMUNITY CONNECTOR – TASK AND FINISH GROUP

Consideration was given to the report of the Task and Finish Group and to the grant agreement between Isle of Wight Council and the Town Council and the Town Council and Aspire. The Committee noted that Aspire would be delivering the service not the Town Council and that the matter of insurance had yet to be resolved.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL:

That the attached agreements with IWC and Aspire Ryde be signed and that, subject to any remaining due diligence, the first tranche of grant funding to Aspire of £20,000 be released.

89/19 COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME CONSULTATION

The Committee gave consideration to the letter received from the Isle of Wight Council concerning the Council Tax Reduction Scheme Consultation.

RESOLVED:

That the following be forwarded to the Isle of Wight Council in response to the attached Consultation on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme:

'That whatever decision the Isle of Wight Council takes, it also implements an effective, secure and fair process for the protection of those poorest and vulnerable to any proposed changes in the scheme.'

'In addition, it would be appreciated that in future consultations an indication of the number of households affected by proposed changes is communicated and that any support that is available is well publicised'.

90/19 FINAL ACCOUNTS 2018/19

The Responsible Financial Officer introduced the final accounts for 2018/2019. He informed members that Section 2 of the previously presented AGAR required amendment as the figures did not take into account accruals from the 2017-18

financial year. The amended figures had been initialled by the Mayor and RFO as per audit requirements The Committee noted the report.

91/19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled to take place on Tuesday 30 July 2019.

CHAIRMAN

DATE