



# RYDE

## TOWN COUNCIL

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RYDE TOWN COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE  
HELD AT 7PM ON 28 SEPTEMBER 2016 AT GARFIELD METHODIST CHURCH,  
GARFIELD ROAD, RYDE, ISLE OF WIGHT.

PRESENT: Councillors Roi Milburn (Chairman), Henry Adams, Adrian Axford,  
Conrad Gauntlett, Malcolm Ross, Tim Wakeley, David Woodward

IN ATTENDANCE: Gareth Hughes (Responsible Financial Officer), Liz Dutton  
(Administration Officer), Ray Harrington Vail and Mrs Harrington  
Vail (The Footprint Trust)

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: There were no questions from members of the  
public.

#### 82/16 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Warren.

#### 83/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no interests declared at this stage.

#### 84/16 MINUTES

##### RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on the 27 July 2016 be  
approved as an accurate record and be signed by the Chairman.

#### 85/16 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

No questions were asked.

## 86/16 REQUEST FOR FUNDING FROM THE FOOTPRINT TRUST – WARMER HOMES INITIATIVE

Members received a presentation from Ray Harrington Vail from the Footprint Trust on their work concerning the Warmer Homes initiative. This involved visiting people in their own homes to give tailored advice on energy matters including advice on energy bills and available discounts. In about 10% of visits an item e.g. thick lined curtains or white goods were purchased for the householder. It was noted that Ryde had a high level of fuel poverty. Members were advised that each home visit (which included a follow up visit) cost £75 which covered the cost of vehicles, insurance as well as office and staffing. Trained advisors were also able to signpost householders to other available services. Members asked a number of questions relating to funding, operating costs and how the scheme worked in other areas. Ray Harrington Vail was thanked by the Chairman for the presentation and left the meeting.

Members gave further consideration to the initiative, believing it to be extremely worthwhile and could be of great value to those facing fuel poverty in Ryde. The Chairman informed members that a letter of support had been received from Cllr Lilley. Members discussed awarding an amount of money from reserves for this initiative.

### RECOMMENDATION TO FULL COUNCIL

- (i) That payments from reserves be made to the Footprint Trust for the Ryde Warmer Homes initiative, of up to £6000pa (for Home Visits in the Ryde area) and up to £2000pa (for energy saving measures for vulnerable people in Ryde) pro rata
- (ii) That payment for any Home Visits undertaken will be approved by the Finance Committee on a quarterly basis upon receipt of
  - (a) An invoice from the Footprint Trust
  - (b) A report from the Footprint Trust to the Committee on the scheme
  - (c) A copy of the Footprint Trust's quarterly accounts
- (iii) That any applications for grants for white goods be forwarded by the Footprint Trust to the Town Council for consideration by the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Finance Committee and any grant awarded by the Chairman and Vice Chairman be signed off by the RFO

## 87/16 MARKETING GRANT REVIEW

The Committee received a report from the Grant Review Working Party who had recently reviewed and revised the Marketing Grant process. The Chairman

confirmed that updating information packs and letters as a result of the review could be completed by officers.

RECOMMENDATION TO FULL COUNCIL:

That the attached revised Marketing Strategy be noted.

88/16 TIMETABLE FOR THE AWARD OF MARKETING GRANTS 2016/17

Members noted that the next round of Marketing Grants would take place in November with applications being considered by the Committee at the November meeting.

89/16 DONATION FROM SOUTHERN WATER

Following recent difficulties caused by water supply issues, Southern Water had offered to make a goodwill donation to a local charity or good cause. Members noted that it had been agreed to share the donation between Ryde in Bloom and The Way Forward. Concern was expressed by some members that the matter had not come back to the Committee for consideration.

90/16 BANK RECONCILIATION

Members received and noted the bank reconciliation for the period from 1 April to 31 August 2016. An update was given regarding an earlier decision on the transfer of money into a higher interest account.

91/16 BUDGET MONITOR

The budget monitor for the period 1 April to 30 June detailing income and expenditure was received and noted. The Responsible Financial Officer confirmed that adjustments will be made to the organisational review and accommodation budget lines to allow for the salaries for new staff (previously approved by Full Council) and the costs and savings associated with the refurbishment of the Town Council's offices. The RFO confirmed that enquires would be made as to whether a rebate for business rates could be claimed for the period the office was not occupied.

92/16 COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME CONSULTATION

A letter together with supporting information had been received from the Isle of Wight Council asking for views on proposed changes to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

RECOMMENDATION TO FULL COUNCIL:

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.’

93/16 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Finance Committee would be held on Wednesday 26th October at 7pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....