

MALVERN TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

held on Tuesday 31 January 2017

in the Council Chamber, Town Council Offices, at 6.00pm

Present:

Councillors: C T Smith (Chairman)
J Cain
J Campbell (left the meeting at 6.50pm)
B A Regimbeau
P A Tuthill
R K Yates

Absent:

M Campbell (Apologies)
S Nichols
J O'Donnell (Apologies)
J D Roskams (Apologies)

In attendance:

Linda Blake – Town Clerk
Lyndsey Davies – Minute Clerk
Cllr C Palmer
Cllr L Lambeth
Cllr J Thomas

55. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs M Campbell, J O'Donnell and J Roskams.

56. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Jill Campbell – Malvern Hills District Council, re: Agenda Item 3, Malvern TIC.
Cllr B Regimbeau – Community Action.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A number of members of the public were in attendance to hear the Committee's discussion on Agenda Item 3 – Malvern Tourist Information Centre.

Mr Sutton said he felt that Jill Campbell as a Malvern Hills District Councillor should not take part in the meeting. The Chairman and the Town Clerk stated that councillors who are members of both the Town and District Councils are able to take part in any discussion affecting both Councils as long as they feel that they have an open mind when considering the subject under consideration.

Councillor Jill Campbell informed the meeting that she was currently conducting a review into local tourist information centres and therefore she would be objective on this matter.

Mr Dickson spoke to say that the plan for the new location of the Tourist Information Centre is utterly inappropriate. He felt that its current location was superb and that no-one would visit its new location. He felt MHDC's decision would undermine Malvern and that although there may be short term gain in terms of cost saving, this move will ultimately damage Malvern in the long term.

Mr Davies also spoke to say that he understands how austerity matters, but that geography suggests moving the TIC's location is not sensible as it will no longer be located in the centre of the town. He also felt that it was only worth having such a resource if it is completely worthwhile otherwise it was better not to have it at all.

57. **MALVERN TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE**

The Committee discussed the issue of Malvern Tourist Information Centre's location and **AGREED** that the new location was unsuitable.

The following points were raised:

- The Tourist Information Centre (TIC) is currently in an ideal location, located centrally in the town.
- It could be more commercially managed and this does need developing.
- The value of tourist information centres is never quantified. The cost may be quantified, but the value to the local area and economy never is.
- Moving the TIC to the new site will result in less people using it and will lead to its eventual closure.
- Tourism is an important part of the local economy and the TIC is an important part of this.

It was **AGREED** that the Town Council would write to the District Council to say that it completely opposes the change in location for Malvern Tourist Information Centre as it is unsuitable and will result in a gradual decline in use and its eventual closure.

It was further **AGREED** that a Working Party should be set up to generate ideas, conduct a feasibility study (including an investigation of costs) and to meet with representatives from MHDC with the aim of keeping the TIC in a central location within the town.

The Working Party would report back to the Policy and Resources Committee once its work has been carried out.

It was **AGREED** that the Working Party will be set up with the following Councillors: Cllr's J Cain, L Lambeth, C Palmer and J Thomas,

Cllr J Campbell abstained from the vote.

It was **AGREED** to bring forward Agenda Item 7.

58. **GRANT: MARIANSKE LAZNE TWINNING ASSOCIATION**

Report PRC04/17 was received and noted.

The Committee **AGREED** to award a grant of £110.00 to the Marianske Lazne Twinning Association for travelling expenses for Malvern St James School visit to Marianske Lanze.

59. **QUARTERLY ACCOUNTS: THIRD QUARTER**

Report PRC01/17 was received and the Town Clerk presented the Management Accounts for the third quarter ended 31 December 2016.

The Committee received the management accounts. The Town Clerk outlined the major variances for the quarter and it was noted that there was an overspend against budget of £25,600 during the third quarter of the 2016/17 financial year. The overspend for the year to date stands at £27,429.

The Town Clerk explained that there were a number of factors contributing to the overall underspend and although it was too early to provide an accurate year end figure, it was anticipated that the current overspend would be reduced by year end.

Cash Report CR1 December 2016

The Committee **NOTED** the cash report for October to December 2016.

Bank Payments Schedule December 2016

The Committee **NOTED** the Bank Payments Schedule for October to December 2016.

It was RECOMMENDED that Council note and approve the Management Accounts for the third quarter ending 31 December 2016.

60. **TOWN COUNCIL WEBSITE**

Report PRC02/17 was received and noted.

Committee **AGREED** that a Working Party should be set up to work with the Town Clerk and Events Co-ordinator in order to write a specification and invite tenders for this project.

It was further **AGREED** that the specification should be written with the aim of reducing the amount of funds allocated towards the project and that a full and open tendering process should take place.

The Committee also stipulated that the website should have input from members of staff, our current IT provider and include a public consultation in order that the Town Council gets a user friendly website which meets the needs of those managing it and accessing it.

The working party will be set up with the following Councillors:
Cllr's J O'Donnell, S Nichols, C Palmer and C Smith,

61. **THE ROLE OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

It was **AGREED** to defer Item 6 of the agenda to the next meeting of Policy and Resources Committee on Tuesday 14 February 2017.

62. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee will be held on:
Tuesday 14 February 2017.

The meeting ended at 7.25pm

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Councillor C Smith (Chairman)

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