

## RIPON CITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 5 OCTOBER 2015 AT 7PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, THE TOWN HALL, RIPON

PRESENT: Cllr P Pearson - Chairman  
Cllr L P A Barnes – as a substitute for Cllr Chambers.  
Cllr J Bate  
Cllr P Horton – as a substitute for Cllr Williams.  
Cllr S Jones  
Cllr A I Morgan  
Cllr C E Powell  
Cllr R Willis – as a substitute for Cllr Morton.  
Cllr P McHardy – The Right Worshipful The Mayor

Acting Clerk  
The Mayor's Chaplain  
Serjeant at Mace  
Member of the press.  
22 members of the public.

Late Arrivals: Cllr Waiting arrived at 7.30pm.  
2 members of the public arrived at 7.40pm.  
1 member of the public arrived at 8pm.

Early Departures: None.

59/15. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr M G Chambers, Cllr S J Hawke, Cllr S A Martin, Cllr M F Stanley & Cllr Williams.

60/15. To request any disclosure of an interest in relation to any matter under consideration at this meeting (financial or otherwise) & to consider any written requests for dispensation.

Cllrs Morgan and Pearson declared non-prejudicial interests in item 71/15 as their spouses volunteer with the St. Cecilia Orchestra.

There were no requests for dispensations.

61/15. Members of the public are invited to question, seek clarification or make representation to members of the Committee on any agenda item as listed below.

1 member of the public questioned whether the Council was content with its decision not to apply for a taxi license on the South side of the Market Square. Councillors reiterated that this is a function of Harrogate Borough Council and that insurance and other liabilities made it prohibitive for the City Council to take over.

Cllr McHardy advised that she had discussed this issue with drivers on the taxi rank.

The issue will continue to be monitored by the City Council.

62/15. To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 September 2015.

Proposed – Cllr Horton                      Seconded – Cllr Bate

“That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 7th September 2015 be approved.”

**RESOLVED**

63/15 To approve the list of payments 01.07.15 - 31.07.15.

Proposed – Cllr Morgan                      Seconded – Cllr Horton

“That the list of payments 01.07.15 - 31.07.15 be approved and that clarification be sought as to the monthly payment which is made to Harrogate Borough Council in respect of ‘mortuary council tax’.”

**RESOLVED**

64/15. To approve the monthly income & expenditure report to 31 July 2015.

Proposed – Cllr Morgan                      Seconded – Cllr Horton

“That the monthly income & expenditure report to 31 July 2015 be approved.”

**RESOLVED**

65/15. To approve the list of payments 01.08.15 - 31.08.15.

Proposed – Cllr Powell                      Seconded – Cllr Horton

“That the list of payments 01.08.15 - 31.08.15 be approved and that clarification be sought as to the monthly payment which is made to Harrogate Borough Council in respect of ‘mortuary council tax’ and the purpose of the aerial runway parts which had been purchased.”

**RESOLVED**

66/15. To approve the monthly income & expenditure report to 31 August 2015.

Proposed – Cllr Bate                      Seconded – Cllr Jones

“That the monthly income & expenditure report to 31 August 2015 be approved.”

**RESOLVED**

- 67/15. To receive & note the conclusion of the Annual Return for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2015, including the external Auditor Report.

It was noted that the external auditor has reported the following in Section 3 of the 2014/15 Annual Return:

“On the basis of our review of the annual return, in our opinion the information in the annual return is in accordance with proper practices and no matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislations and regulatory requirements have not been met.

Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the Council:

The Clerk has queried the need to consider and minute the annual reappointment of the internal auditor. We draw your attention to page 41 of the Practitioner’s Guide, item one on the checklist, which set out proper or best practice – namely the need to approve or reapprove the terms of reference. We accept that does not require consideration of appointment.”

Proposed – Cllr Powell

Seconded – Cllr Bate

“That the External Auditor’s opinion be noted and recorded.”

**RESOLVED**

- 68/15. To receive an update from the City Development Manager on the newly proposed Ripon Community Interest Company.

A written report outlining details of the proposal to create a Ripon Community Interest Company, as a new community, business and public partnership in the City with the aim of making Ripon better, had been submitted by the City Development Manager prior to this meeting.

Proposed – Cllr Powell

Seconded – Cllr Willis

“That consideration of the City Development Manger’s report be deferred until the next meeting of this committee, but that nomination of a subscribing member of the Ripon Community Interest Company be included on the agenda of the Full Council Meeting to be held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2015.”

**RESOLVED**

- 69/15. To receive an update report from the City Development Manager in relation to the NYCC Libraries reconfiguration.

Progress with recruiting volunteers to help with the future running of Ripon Library was noted.

Proposed – Cllr Horton

Seconded – Cllr Barnes

“That the contents of the City Development Manager’s report be noted and that Library service representatives be invited to attend a meeting of the City Council to discuss the approach to implementing the reconfiguration.”

**RESOLVED**

- 70/15. To consider the Fire Risk Assessment for the Town Hall including the use of the Council Chamber.

The results of a fire assessment survey undertaken on the Council chamber of Ripon Town Hall were noted.

The chamber is to be limited, with immediate effect, to a maximum of 60 people at any one time due to the alternative fire exit route not being 750mm in width.

It was further noted that Ripon City Council has no discretion in this matter as the building is owned and regulated by Harrogate Borough Council. The requirement will also affect private bookings.

Proposed – Cllr Pearson      Seconded – Cllr McHardy

“That the outcome of the Fire Risk Assessment for the Town Hall including the use of the Council Chamber be noted and implemented in respect of Ripon City Council meetings.”

### **RESOLVED**

- 71/15. Correspondence to consider.

#### Requests for grant funding:

- St Cecilia Orchestra
- Ripon Community Toy Library
- Bread of Life

It was noted that any grant awards made by the Council are arranged in a single round and not on ad hoc basis throughout the year.

Proposed – Cllr McHardy      Seconded – Cllr Jones

“That letters of acknowledgement be sent to the above organisations and advice given that they will be contacted in due course when the Council has funding available, and that a working group be convened to review the Council’s grant funding programme.”

### **RESOLVED**

#### North Yorkshire County Council – Temporary Vehicle Activated Sign initiative.

North Yorkshire County Council has written to the Council offering it the opportunity of participating in its Temporary Vehicle Activated Sign Initiative.

Proposed – Cllr Horton      Seconded – Cllr Powell

“That clarification on the cost of the scheme be obtained from North Yorkshire County Council for consideration at a future meeting of this committee.”

### **RESOLVED**

#### Harrogate & District Volunteering Oscars

It was noted that nominations are now open for the 2015 awards and should be submitted by 12<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

The meeting closed at 8.01pm

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIRMAN

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

ACKNOWLEDGED AT FULL COUNCIL MEETING FOR INFORMATION ONLY

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_  
THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL THE  
MAYOR

DATE \_\_\_\_\_