COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIPON

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 28 JANUARY 2013 AT 7:40 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, THE TOWN HALL, RIPON

PRESENT: Cllr A Williams – The Right Worshipful The Mayor
Cllr L P A Barnes
Cllr B A Bateman
Cllr Mrs S E Brierley
Cllr M C Chambers
Cllr P M Horton
Cllr S A Martin
Cllr P McHardy
Cllr Powell
Cllr A F Skidmore
Cllr M F Stanley – Chairman

Late Arrivals: Cllr M Waiting – 7.45pm

Early Departures: None

4 members of the public were present

208/12. APOLOGIES: The Committee received and accepted apologies from:

Cllr Todd
Cllr Martin- Long
Cllr Hawke

209/12. DISCLOSURE OF AN INTEREST IN RELATION TO ANY MATTER UNDER CONSIDERATION AT THIS MEETING (financial or otherwise)

None

210/12. MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 14 JANUARY 2013

Proposed – Cllr Brierley Seconded – Cllr Martin

“That the minutes of the said meeting be approved, signed and adopted as a true record.”

RESOLVED

211/12. PARISH PRECEPTS 2013/14 – EFFECTS OF LOCAL COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME.

Cllr Skidmore spoke at length to the members of the committee with regards to the changes from central government funding with regards to the precept. It was agreed that the precept would remain the same at
£168530 as approved at Full Council on 17 December 2012 & that this includes the central government funding from the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme which will in turn will mean a reduction in the cost of the precept for each property in Ripon.

212/12. BUDGET DISCUSSION & APPROVAL FOR 2013/14

There was a discussion in which Cllr Martin raised the issue that the council could not approve the current budget figures as there were such a large amount being taken out of the Council’s reserves. Cllr Skidmore then suggested that the figures for the budget were presented differently so that the council’s expenditure could be monitored better. A number of points were raised and it was proposed “that a small working group should be set up to look at the budget it was agreed that Cllr Williams, Cllr Skidmore and Cllr Stanley would sit on this group”

Proposed Cllr Stanley Seconded Cllr McHardy

RESOLVED

213/12. COUNCILLORS LEAVING CASH IN THE OFFICE- CLLR MARTIN TO SPEAK

Cllr Martin spoke about loose cash being left in the office; staff had raised this as an issue. Cllr Stanley reminded councillors that money should not be left in the office as staff cannot be expected to be responsible for unaccounted funds.

214/12. HOW BEST TO USE THE POSITION OF HORNBLOWER & BELLMAN IN THE PROMOTION OF THE CITY – CLLR MARTIN

Cllr Martin felt that recently the City had missed opportunities to promote the City due to the restrictive constraints that are on the Hornblower at the present time and he had put a paper together with some suggestions. A number of councillors agreed and felt that this needed to be looked into by the staffing committee in greater detail and then any conclusions reported back to Finance and General Purposes Committee. It was therefore resolved that staffing look in to the protocol for the municipal officers employed by the City council.

Proposed Cllr Martin Seconded Cllr Williams

The chairman took the agenda item 226/12 next

226/12. TO CONSIDER SUPPORT TO RIPON IN BLOOM FOR ENTRY TO BRITAIN IN BLOOM – CLLR WILLIAMS TO SPEAK

A member of the Ripon in Bloom committee spoke to council with regards to the aspiration of entering the Britain in Bloom competition; no exact figures were available to the council at this stage. It was agreed if Ripon was to enter Britain in Bloom that the City council would be supportive of any application for funds however further information was required from Ripon in Bloom committee before any further decision with regards to the level of support available.
215/12. TO DISCUSS THE COMPOSITION OF FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE IN THE FUTURE

After discussion with regards to the structure of the committees, Cllr Brierley raised the fact that the committee has been structured in its current format for a number of years and had not been issued. A number of members however felt that for the committee to work more effectively and in line with best practise that the committee should reduce in size from its current level. It was proposed and there should be three representatives from each ward and that each ward group would decide who the representatives would be. This would be three independents from Moorside and Minster wards and three conservatives from the Spa ward. RESOLVED.

Proposed Cllr Skidmore Seconded Cllr Barnes

216/12. TO CONSIDER THE ADVICE FROM THE COUNCILS SOLICITOR WITH REFERENCE TO THE HEADS OF TERMS FOR HUGH RIPLEY HALL AND APPROVAL OF THE HEADS OF TERMS.

The council accepted the advice that had been received from the solicitors and were happy to proceed with the approval of the heads of terms.

217/12. APPROVAL FOR PURCHASE OF NEW ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE PACKAGE & BOOKING SYSTEM FOR HUGH RIPLEY HALL

It was proposed “to approve the cost of the purchase of a new accounting and computerised booking system for Hugh Ripley Hall.”

Proposed Cllr Stanley Seconded Cllr McHardy

RESOLVED

218/12. APPROVAL FOR ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION TO RIPON GAZETTE - £46.80

It was proposed “that approval be given for an annual subscription to the Ripon Gazette at a cost of £46.80”

Proposed Cllr Bateman Seconded Cllr Williams

RESOLVED

219/12. APPROVAL FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICERS TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE GUILD OF MACE BEARERS INC CONFERENCE FEES, TRAVEL & OVERNIGHT ACCOMODATION EXPENSES

A proposal was put forward that the council approve the expenditure for “one municipal officer who had expressed an interest attending the Annual conference of Guild of Mace Bearers to include the conference fees, travel and overnight accommodation but not the dinner.”

Proposed Cllr Brierley Seconded Cllr McHardy
RESOLVED

220/12. APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT FOR THE SUBSCRIPTION TO THE GUILD OF MACE BEARERS FOR THE MUNICIPAL OFFICERS AT COST OF £25 EACH

Proposed that “Approval for the expenditure be given for each municipal officer”

Proposed Cllr Martin Seconded Cllr Horton

RESOLVED

221/12. APPROVAL FOR THE CLERK TO ATTEND A TRAINING DAY FOR NEWER CLERKS

Proposed that “Approval for the expenditure be given”

Proposed Cllr Stanley Seconded Cllr Skidmore

RESOLVED

222/12. CONSIDERATION TO MOVING MAYORS PHOTOS INTO MAIN HALLWAY OF TOWN HALL – CONSERVATION OFFICERS REPORT

After discussion it was RESOLVED that the costs of copying photographs and new frames are looked in to however the location of these frames was not confirmed as there were concerns raised about the security of locating them in the entrance way due to the open nature of the building at the present time.

Proposed Cllr McHardy Seconded Cllr Stanley

RESOLVED

223/12. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM COLLEGE LAWNS ESTATE MANAGEMENT CO LTD RE REFUSAL OF GRANT APPLICATION

Correspondence was noted as received by the council.

224/12. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS 2013 – CLLR WILLIAMS TO SPEAK

Cllr Williams spoke with regards to this agenda item and 225/12. He discussed that both of these issues had been raised by residents to him. With regards to Christmas lighting it was felt that some displays were missing and that they were not all in situ. Cllr Williams, raised the point that the council should be looking at the Christmas lighting and marketing now and suggested that the business community be asked to support this. Cllr McHardy raised the point that the aspiration of the council should be for the displays to be added to each year, Cllr Barnes also suggested that we should undertake an inventory of the lights we currently hold. Cllr Stanley suggested that Christmas lighting and marketing should be in the remit of the new City Development Manager Alan Weston.

225/12. SKATE PARK REPAIRS – CLLR WILLIAMS TO SPEAK

Cllr Williams then raised the issue of the state of repair of the skate park which had been brought to his attention by parent of users of the skate park. The skate park ramps have had to be taken out of usage due to repair work required, Cllr Martin gave the council an update on the skate park and it was agreed that he would speak direct to the group to get an idea of the current position of the group and report back to council.
227/12. TO CONSIDER ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP TO PLAN FOR LE TOUR ON 5 JULY 2014 – CLLR WILLIAMS TO SPEAK

Cllr Williams wanted the council to consider setting up a working group. Cllr Stanley informed the council that both Harrogate Borough Council and Welcome to Yorkshire would be interested in working with a working group.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm

SIGNED __________________________  DATE __________________________
CHAIRMAN

RATIFIED AT COUNCIL MEETING  THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR

SIGNED __________________________  DATE __________________________