

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
FINANCE ECONOMIC & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
Minutes of a meeting held on 26 February 2013

Present: Cllr S Robinson (chair)
Cllr P Carter
Cllr JL Duckworth
Cllr NI Kay
Cllr MP Robinson
Cllr SE Thorpe
Apologies: Cllr JL Duckworth
Cllr SM Reed

Consideration of grant applications received

After discussion it was agreed to recommend approval of the following applications:

Nailsworth Community Workshop	£450.00
Samaritans	£100.00
Rockness Trust	£160.00

	£710.00

It was agreed to recommend that the balance of £1,690.00 remaining in the budget be carried forward and added to next year's budget head.

The Clerk reported that the CAB was pleased with the response to its outreach sessions at the Arkell Centre and wished to continue next year and was seeking confirmation that funding of £3,243.00 (CAB direct - £ 2,618 + room hire £625) would be forthcoming. Whilst appreciating that no decision could be taken before the start of the new financial year members favoured the continuation of the service and asked the Clerk to include a grant to CAB as an item on the April council agenda.

Consideration of audit opinion 2011/12

Members considered the comments made by the auditor. NTC had a set of financial regulations which detailed the management of the council's finances and which were considered to be suitably comprehensive. It was agreed to review and update the document at a future meeting. It had been the practice for a member of the Finance Committee to check over the accounts once or twice a year carrying out an audit trail of selected items of income and expenditure. This practice had fallen into abeyance and it was agreed that it be re-introduced in the coming year.

The Clerk had asked the auditors for more specific guidance about what was required to meet the perceived risk assessment issues but they had declined to assist. Cllr Kay offered to look at the Practitioners Guide and give an opinion by the end of the week. The Clerk undertook to send the report by email. Cllr Carter suggested that the Committee could consider producing a risk register – a list of perceived risks and the actions taken/to be taken in the event of them becoming a reality. It was agreed to progress this suggestion at a future meeting.

Community Right to Bid – nomination of library as community asset

The Mayor suggested that NTC should investigate the possibility of listing the library building as a community asset. Whilst apparently straightforward the procedure involved was lengthy and a strong case was required to support nominations. Members agreed in principle that the listing of the library should be pursued although it was noted that there were a number of other buildings which might also be worthy of similar nomination. It was agreed to discuss the matter further at the next meeting in June. The Clerk was asked to circulate the advice note issued by the Department for Communities & Local Government (DCLG) by email.

Review of Standing Orders

Some work to update the standing orders had been undertaken by the previous council but had not been completed. In view of recent legislative changes and the publication by NALC of new model standing orders a complete replacement was considered the most practical way forward. As some sections of the model standing orders were not applicable to NTC it was agreed that the Clerk and Mrs Nicholson, as time permitted, would start working through the new model orders and produce draft standing orders for council's consideration.

FUTURE OF NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

Cllr Thorpe drew attention to forthcoming discussion on 5 March in the House of Lords of a Statutory Instrument issued under Section 75 of the Health Care Act which if endorsed would force GP's and commissioning groups to put all medical services out to tender. This attempt to force through the privatisation of medical services had not been well publicised and she urged colleagues to lobby individually against this proposal which would have a potentially devastating effect on the National Health Service.

.....
Town Mayor

.....
Date