

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
FINANCE ECONOMIC & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
Minutes of a meeting held on 6 July 2011

Present: Cllr S Robinson (Chair)
Cllr Mrs A Elliott
Cllr N I Kay
Cllr Mrs S E Thorpe
Apologies: Cllr M P Robinson

Consideration of grant applications received

A grant of £1700 was approved to Forest Green Residents Association towards a Play Rangers summer holiday event for young people.

An application for funds to support the friendship link with the village of Vumilia in central Tanzania was discussed at length with all members in agreement that it was a most deserving initiative. However as the link was informal and not a formal twinning arrangement the committee regretfully concluded that it was not legally empowered to provide financial support.

A decision on applications from The Shrubberies School, Independence Trust and Stroudwater Textile Trust (second DVD) were deferred to a future meeting.

The clerk reported that former Cllr Mrs Way had written to the Stroud Valleys Community Car Club but had been unable to make progress and so it was agreed to take no further action.

Review of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

Members considered that the current versions were workable and should be continued to be used without alteration. A complete revision could be contemplated when the current programme of work allowed.

Review of insurances and internal audit arrangements

Members considered the insurance cover and internal audit arrangements satisfactory.

Risk assessments for buildings

It was agreed that a competent person should be employed to undertake the assessments and the clerk was asked to investigate whether they needed to hold a professional qualification. Cllr Mrs Elliott agreed to provide a copy of the template used in her work place.

Support for unitary authority status in Gloucestershire

Some discussion ensued and most were agreed that unitary status would bring substantial savings in running costs. However in the absence of a consultation framework or any national lead on this matter it was acknowledged that further discussion at local level was unlikely to be fruitful.

Future support for the library

The latest offer from GCC suggested an increase in opening hours from 22 to 28 per week with volunteers assisting library staff together with a contribution towards running costs of £3300pa. Cllr Robinson had contacted all the volunteers and

confirmed their continuing interest and the next step would be to hold a meeting and liaise with Sue Lawrence GCC about arranging training and how the rota would be organised. It was suggested that a meeting should be arranged with neighbouring parish councils whose residents used the library – Horsley, Nympsfield, Woodchester and Avening to establish whether they would be prepared to contribute towards the annual running costs.

It was noted however that further progress in this matter depended on the outcome of the judicial review and the hearing taking place the following day.

Staffing

The Mayor reported that with Cllr Mrs Thorpe he had conducted an annual review discussion with the clerk. It was clear that additional clerical assistance was needed including some day time attendance in the office. It was agreed to recommend that council consider engaging an assistant clerk and that a small group be set up to take this forward.

Five year plan

Whilst a potentially valuable exercise there was little enthusiasm for tackling this at present and it was agreed to defer consideration to a future meeting.

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Town Mayor

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Date