

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
FINANCE ECONOMIC & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held on 5 October 2010

Present: Cllr S Robinson (chairman)
Cllr I D Crawley
Cllr N I Kay
Cllr M P Robinson
Cllr Mrs S E Thorpe
Cllr Mrs J M Way

Apologies: Cllr P Carter
Cllr J R Nicholson

Financial support for Arkell Community Trust

Members considered a report prepared by Cllr Crawley rehearsing the issues involved in NTC making a short term loan from reserves to the Trust to cover any shortfall in working capital due to delay in receipt of grant payments following claims for reimbursement to enable the project to proceed unhindered. NTC had the legal power to make a loan, the current interest rate (0.05%) was so low that loss of interest would be negligible and NTC as sole trustee of the Trust had full control of the loan. It was considered that a loan of no more than £100,000 would be prudent.

It was noted that since the report had been circulated the RDA had confirmed that it would be unable to meet any claims until the Trust had been registered as a charity which might cause a significant strain on working capital. Cllr Mrs Thorpe together with Barbara Pond GRCC had prepared a first draft of the constitution and articles of association etc which would shortly be sent to the solicitor to progress further. £5600 remained in the budget for legal fees to effect registration with the Charity Commission.

After discussion it was agreed to adopt the recommendation in the report that:

The Town Council agrees to loan the Arkell Community Charitable Trust Fund (the Charity) £100,000 from its reserves, and up to £100,000 borrowed from the Public Works Loans Board (the Board), as working capital with no interest charges, to enable the development of the Arkell Community Centre (the Centre) to proceed.

Cllr Crawley undertook slightly revise the report and attach a cash flow projection for circulation for the meeting on 19 October.

Response to GCC Electoral Review

Considerable discussion ensued. The object of the exercise was to provide only single cllr divisions (dispense with those currently having two) and even out the ratio of representation to meet as closely as possible the "ideal" of 1 cllr per 6000 population. There was general agreement that the current system of representation was flawed and that the sensible way forward was the introduction of unitary authorities – although it was acknowledged that this option was specifically excluded from consideration in the current review.

It was agreed to recommend that **the council respond** that it was **content with the current representation** for Nailsworth but if there was any suggestion that the division should be enlarged it would expect to be consulted and making the point that in the council's view the only sensible way to effect savings and improve representation was to form a unitary authority.

Review of audit opinion for financial year 2009/10

