

## AXMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BUILDINGS AND FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD AT 6.00 p.m. ON MONDAY, 30<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2018 AT AXMINSTER GUILDHALL.

1. PRESENT: Cllr. J.W. Walden, (Town Mayor), Cllr. A.L.Young (Deputy Mayor), Cllr. D.R.H. Hull, the Town Clerk and the Deputy Town Clerk. 0 member of the public , 0 representative of the press.

CLLR. YOUNG, IN HER CAPACITY AS GUILDHALL MANAGER FOR WHICH SHE DECLARES A PECUNIARY INTEREST, HAS A DISPENSATION TO SPEAK ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE GUILDHALL PROVIDED THE PECUNIARY INTEREST IS NOT OF OVER-RIDING SIGNIFICANCE

CLLRS. HULL DECLARED A PERSONAL INTEREST AS BEING A MEMBER OF AXMINSTER GUILDHALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

CLLRS. WALDEN DECLARED A PERSONAL INTEREST AS BEING A MEMBER OF AXMINSTER COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE.

CLLR. WALDEN DECLARED A PERSONAL INTEREST AS BEING CHAIRMAN OF THE GOVERNORS OF AXE VALLEY ACADEMY

2. APOLOGIES: Cllr. P.G. Hayward and Cllr. Mrs. S.L.N. Leat.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING: These were signed by the Chairman. Referring to minute 7 ii, further contact will be made with Devon County Council regarding the damage being done by tree roots at Pippins.

4. PUBLIC FORUM:- None.

#### 5.FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) STATEMENT OF RESERVES: the statement of reserves and earmarked funds had been circulated by the Deputy Town Clerk.

There was discussion regarding unspent budget and what should be allocated as earmarked funds and what assigned as earmarked funds.

Areas of underspend and overspend in the budget were highlighted and explained. It was suggested that in future consideration should be given to viring expenditure from one cost centre to another within the year's budget rather than taking money from reserves to cover overspend and returning money to reserves where there had been underspend, There had been overspend on employment because of pensions, and on purchase of equipment for the Handyman and on Old Courthouse because of the need to pay rates on the vacant areas. Overspend at Pippins was attributable largely to the cost of utilities.

Cllr. Walden proposed that the statement of reserves be presented quarterly rather than monthly unless the Responsible Financial Officer deemed otherwise. Agreed.

b) GRANT APPLICATIONS : the following awards were made, duly proposed and seconded:

- i. East Devon Citizens' Advice Bureau - £750
- ii. Axminster Job Club - £600
- iii. Axminster Health and Wellbeing Centre £0
- iv. East and Mid Devon Community Safety Partnership - £2000
- v. Axe Valley Ring and Ride - £1000

c) GRANT APPLICATIONS POLICY – various amendments were agreed.

6. PROPERTY RELATED MATTERS – GUILDHALL:

- i. UPDATE ON MEETING WITH PROPERTY CONSULTANTS – an overall breakdown of likely costs had been received. Cllr. Young said that she was not happy that the figures did not appear to be based on actual quotes. It was agreed that that stage would come later. The Town Clerk will arrange a further meeting with the consultants.

CLLR. WALDEN PROPOSED THAT ITEM 11 BE BROUGHT FORWARD IN VIEW OF THE SHORTAGE OF TIME AND THE MEETING BE RECONVENED AT A LATER DATE TO COMPLETE THE OTHER BUSINESS. AGREED.

The Deputy Mayor proposed that under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings ) Act 1960, (as amended by the Local Government Act 1972 the public, (including the press) be excluded from the meeting as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted. Agreed.

7. EMPLOYMENT COSTS: Cllr. Walden proposed that this item be carried forward for inclusion in the discussions of the Employment Committee meeting scheduled at the conclusion of this meeting. Agreed.

Signed ..... Date .....