

BARTON-UPON-HUMBER TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING
held on MONDAY 16 JANUARY 2012 at 7.30 p.m. in
THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS, QUEEN STREET, BARTON-UPON-HUMBER

Present Councillor Mrs W Witter (Chairman)

Councillors J Evison, Mrs J Oxley, Mr J Oxley, N Turner, J P Vickers and K Vickers.

Also Present Councillors F Coulsey, S Dear and M Osgerby, Mrs J Dear (Barton Arts), D Elliott (Scunthorpe Telegraph), Mrs C Clark (Deputy Town Clerk) and Ms S Richards (Town Clerk).

297. **Apologies for Absence**

None received for this meeting.

298. **Declarations of Interest**

Barton Bike Night (Personal interest) and Barton Town Band (Personal and Prejudicial interest) – Councillor J Evison

Barton Bike Night and Barton Senior Alliance – Councillor Mrs J Oxley (Personal interest)

Barton Bike Night and Barton Senior Alliance – Councillor Mr J Oxley (Personal interest)

Barton Tourism Partnership– Councillor J P Vickers (Personal interest)

Barton Tourism Partnership– Councillor K Vickers (Personal interest)

Barton Senior Alliance and Barton Town Band – Councillor Mrs W Witter (Personal interest)

299. **Minutes of Meeting held on the 17 October 2011**

It was noted that these minutes had been signed as a correct record, for action as necessary, at a meeting of the Town Council held on 2 November 2011.

300. **Matters Arising**

There were no matters of report discussed at this meeting.

301. **Requests for Financial Assistance**

(a) **Humber & Wolds Rural Community Council** (Min Ref: 246(15)(v)/101 – BTC 07/12/11)

Members agreed and

Resolved that a donation of £500 be given to the Humber and Wolds Rural Community Council towards funding for the local Community Transport and Voluntary Car Service. To be taken from the town council's 2012/2013 Community Regeneration Committee budget 'Donation – Rural Car Scheme' (empowered: Local Government and Rating Act 1997, s.26-29).

(b) **Bowmandale Primary School** (Min Ref: 246(20)(v)/101 – BTC 07/12/11)

Members agreed and

Resolved that the council in accordance with the powers under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, should incur the following expenditure, which, in the opinion of the council, is in the interests of the area and/or some of its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure of £100 funding towards a residential school visit to Newlands Outdoor Centre. Donation to be taken from the town council's 2011/2012 Community Regeneration budget 'Donations/Grants (s.137)'.

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(c) **Campaign to Protect Rural England** (Min Ref: 246(21)(v)/101 – BTC 07/12/11)

Members agreed and

Resolved the town council already support this group by funding annual subscriptions towards supporting the work undertaken by them. As the council is not empowered to provide financial assistance towards the support of individual employment costs, the request for additional funding was not met by the town council.

Councillor J Evison left the meeting, having declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the next agenda item. The Vice-Chairman, Councillor K Vickers then took over chairmanship for this as the Chairman, Councillor Mrs W Witter, had declared a personal interest in the subject.

(d) **Barton Town Band** (Min Ref: 291(6)(ii)/119 – BTC 04/01/12)

Members agreed and

Resolved that in principle, the town council support the project to convert the current Salvation Army Citadel in the town into a Performing Arts Centre, subject to the following conditions. That further information on funding arrangements and the business plan be forwarded to the town council for perusal, together with confirmation that other avenues of funding towards the project are in place before the town council consider provision of their financial support. Also, confirmation that the project will not impact negatively upon other similar initiatives and buildings in the town. An initial earmarked reserve of £1,000 be placed in the town council's 2012/2013 Community Regeneration budget, in support of the pledge for year 1, subject to the conditions being met. To be further discussed, when additional documentation is submitted to the town council (empowered: Local Government Act 1972, s.145).

Councillor J Evison returned to the meeting and Councillor Mrs W Witter resumed chairmanship of the meeting.

302. **External Financial Support for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Event** (Min Ref: 289(a)/118 – BTC 04/01/12)

It was reported the town council had received a £200 donation towards a firework display at this event. To date, no further additional external funding had been sourced. Discussion took place regarding the current position of organisations and local parish/town council's provisional plans and the budget required of £5,000 to contribute towards these. Views were put forward for and against this. It was acknowledged Barton Arts were proposing to mark the event with a programme of events, which the town council had provided financial assistance towards. It was also reported that the Barton Tourism Group were not marking the event, choosing to finance their programme of events over the summer period with Performance in the Park etc. It was agreed and

Resolved

(i) to hold a "Jubilee in the Park" event on Monday 4 June, in lieu of the usual "Picnic in the Park" normally held in August. The same budget funding to be used for the Jubilee celebration instead. It was felt the event would mark the occasion well, being a family day whereby people could bring their own food, provision of tables/chairs, with free entertainment. Barton Town Band to initiate the afternoon with The National Anthem etc. No additional costs would have to be met from the local tax payer to fund the event. To be further discussed by the Community Regeneration Committee to agree a programme for the event;

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(ii) Councillor M Osgerby to attend the next joint meeting with Hessle, North and South Ferriby Town/Parish Councils on 18 January as an observer only, with no commitment from the town council to provide funding towards event proposals. For report back to the town council at the next meeting.

303. **2011/2012 Budget – Quarterly Summary of Income/Expenditure**

Members present were each handed a copy of the town council's budget for the next agenda item. This incorporated the latest quarterly spend levels. The Clerk explained the town council were monitoring spending levels carefully and that expenditure on the majority of budget lines were within allocation of budget provision. Those overspending tended to be whereby stationery/computer consumables were purchased to print planning application documents from North Lincolnshire Council Planning Department that no longer provided copies of to the town council.

304. **Barton Town Council Proposed 2012/2013 Budget/Precept**

Members were presented with copies of the Town Council draft 2012/2013 Budget/Precept, Earmarked Reserves and a comparison table of previous year's precept/council tax for perusal and comment. Incorporated into the draft budget are the budget proposals from the Environmental Regeneration Committee meeting held on 21 November 2011 (Min Ref: 231/95) and the Community Regeneration Committee meeting held on 19 December 2011 (Min Ref: 278/114).

Members present discussed and debated the 2012/2013 budget, to determine the proposals to put forward to the next Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council to be held on Wednesday 1 February 2012. It was noted that in the present economic climate, close scrutiny had taken place and some reductions in budget proposals had been made in several areas, whilst maintaining, and in some instances, improving service levels. The Environmental Regeneration and Community Regeneration Committees, had both respectively cut their general budget proposals from the previous year 2011/2012 for precept purposes. The entire budget proposals made, has resulted in the town council requesting a Precept from North Lincolnshire Council in the sum of £165,450. As the council tax base will be 3541.4, this will mean a Band D property council charge of £46.72.

Resolved that:

- (i) the budget proposal for the town council's 2012/2013 budget for the 'Community Regeneration Committee – "3512 Nitesafe Initiative"', in the sum of £15,000 to be removed from the budget line. An earmarked reserve of £13,000 to be placed in lieu of this;
 - (ii) the budget proposal for the town council's 2012/2013 budget for the 'Community Regeneration Committee – "3513 CCTV"', in the sum of £10,000 to be removed from the budget line. An earmarked reserve of £6,000 to be placed in lieu of this;
 - (iii) an agenda item be placed at the next meeting of the Community Regeneration Committee meeting to be held on 19 March 2012 to discuss costs for the town centre CCTV provision;
 - (iv) the sum of £1,000 be added to the town council's earmarked reserves, as provisional funding for the Barton Town Band project (Min Ref: 301(d)/123 above refers);
 - (v) the sum of £500 be added to earmarked reserves as provisional funding for parish elections;
 - (vi) total earmarked reserves for 2012/2013 to be £22,250;
 - (vii) the internal auditor to remove budget lines from the budget that do not have a budget figure;
 - (viii) that the 2012/2013 proposals to be checked by the Clerk, to be presented and approved at the next meeting of the town council to be held on Wednesday 1 February 2012, to allow the Clerk to levy the Precept with North Lincolnshire Council as required in the sum of £165,450.
- The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Witter closed the meeting at 8.30 p.m.

.....Chairman 1 February 2012

