

**Honiton Town  
Council Finance  
Committee**

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Finance Committee held on 26  
November 2018 at 7.00pm at the Beehive, Dowell Street, Honiton**

**Members Present**

Cllr P Carrigan (Chairman)

Cllr John Taylor

Cllr John Zarczynski

Cllr Roy Coombs

Cllr Nicolette Macve

Cllr Duncan Sheridan-Shaw

Cllr Jill McNally

Cllr Henry Brown

Cllr Vera Howard

Cllr Terry Darrant

**In attendance**

Mark Tredwin (Town Clerk)

**18/140/F To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Caroline Kolek, Cllr Mike Jones

**18/141/F Disclosable pecuniary interests**

No pecuniary interests were declared.

**18/142/F To note the grant of dispensations made by the town clerk in relation to the business of this meeting**

None had been granted.

**PART A MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION**

**18/143/F - To confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 29 October 2018.**

Copies of the minutes of the meetings had been circulated in advance.

Members **RESOLVED** to confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 30 July 2018.

Proposed by Cllr Zarczynski and seconded by Cllr Sheridan-Shaw Jones and resolved unanimously.

Signed Chair

## **18/144/F 2019-2020 Budget planning report**

The Town Clerk presented his report pointing out that the number of properties that the precept would be based upon, also that there would be no CT grant this year. During the course of the discussions, the clerk pointed out that Earmarked Reserves had not been included in the figures allocated to the budget figures and these would be adjusted accordingly once the final budget was put before members at January Full Council meeting.

Members were taken through the various budget headings there would not be outlining the need for members to consider the need for medium and long term plans to be in place.

Members were also reminded that they were making financial decisions that a new council would be in place and as such the new council may decide that they would want to take funds from one budget area and use them in others. members then went through the areas line by line. It was noted that no income should be included from the proposed charging for Dowell Street Car Park.

There was quite a discussion about the need to see the budget figures as descriptive rather than prescriptive and that it was quite possible that should issues arise where funds were needed then providing there were funds available elsewhere they could always be reallocated should members wish to do so.

Members received a briefing regarding some of the HR changes that would be put forward at the HR meeting in January.

Members also discussed the need to increase the marketing budgets and also the website and the possibility to set up a new town brochure that incorporated the outlying areas of Honiton. It was pointed out by the Chair that this should be dealt with in the Town Management Committee as part of a structured plan for Honiton that would also sit alongside the development of the website as well as looking possibly at the development of an App.

There was also some discussion around bus shelters and it was noted that this would be on the December Full council agenda. It was once again pointed out that the matter of bus shelters should be part of a rounded plan.

The work that Cllr Sheridan-Shaw had done towards putting the Christmas lights on this year in Honiton was noted. Elements of concern were raised that the turning on of the Christmas Tree lights had not been as successful; as people would have hoped

discussions took place around other items and there were amounts allocated that people hoped could be made available when the final budget was presented to council. The chair again pointed out that it was up to this council and the new council in May 2019 to set priorities and plans for the coming years. The clerk pointed out that in the first quarter of the new council a detailed financial report would give an indication of spending and where changes might want to be reallocated.

Signed Chair

Discussion sat around both the Hot Pennies and Charter Day events and look to support them further should they come up with plans on how they might wish to use the funds first. Likewise the Charities Together Funding, Honiton Youth Group were also discussed. It was agreed in principle to increase the Grants budget to £12,000.

Discussion took place around the current performance of the market. It was agreed that the market should be looking to turnover £30,000. This would be part of the details brought to HR in January.

Members were made aware that the budget was purely a draft one at this point but would be brought to Full Council on 14 January 2019 so that the final figures could be assessed and agreed.

**Members resolved to take the Budget emanating from the Finance Meeting to Full council on the 14 January 2019**

Proposed by Cllr Darrant and seconded by Cllr Sheridan-Shaw.

**18/145/F Councillor's allowances**

The report was considered by members. The point that co-opted members are not entitled to a councillor's allowance. The clerk pointed that legally an allowance should be paid. The allowance should be paid by BACS payments through the salary payment systems. It was pointed out if co-opted councillors could claim for print cartridge and would be given paper. Likewise a mileage allowance can be claimed for when appropriate.

The clerk confirmed that he would make further enquiries to see if there were any other ways that the allowances could be changed and if so then information would be brought before members in the future.

**Members resolved to take to Full Council on 10 December that all members entitled, and who wish to receive it, should be paid the members allowance of £305 in December Salaries payments.**

Proposed by Cllr Darrant and seconded by Cllr Sheridan-Shaw.

**18/146/F Meeting closed at 7-24pm**