

## TORPOINT TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2013 at 7.30pm in the Council Committee Room, 4, York Road, Torpoint.

PRESENT:- Councillor (Chairman Mrs R A Southworth), Town Mayor (Councillor M N Pearn MBE), Councillors E H Andrews, Mrs K Brownhill, J F Creek, G J Davis, Mrs C E Goodman, Mrs J M Martin, J Tivnan and Mrs C I A Trueman plus the Town Clerk.

(All members of the Council were invited to participate in this meeting).

### **Apologies for absence:-**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Deputy Town Mayor (Councillor M J Crago), Councillors B Hobbs, P Edwards, L E Keise, and Mrs C A Jackson.

### **52-13FGP Declarations of Interest relating to matters on the agenda:-**

Non Registerable Interests were declared by

Town Mayor – Councillor M N Pearn – As a member of the Torpoint Archives

Councillor E H Andrews – As a Friend of the Torpoint Archives

Councillor Mrs K Brownhill – As a member of the Torpoint Community Events Company (Torpoint Christmas Lights)

Councillor J F Creek – As a Friend of the Torpoint Archives.

Councillor Mrs R A Southworth – As the treasurer of the Torpoint Archives

Councillor J Tivnan - As a member of the Torpoint Community Events Company (Torpoint Christmas Lights).

### **53-13FGP To consider rental and hire charges for the 2014/2015 financial year.**

Members considered the hire charges using the circulated working paper as a base. The final **recommended** proposed rental and hire charges to Council are attached as appendix "A" to these minutes.

Key points in the debate included: -

- a) Square Footage Charges for occupancy fees. Whilst some members wished the charges to remain the same it was suggested by others that these should rise by a modest amount. Following further discussion it was **recommended** that the occupancy charges should remain at the current levels.
- b) Torpoint Archives – Councillor Mrs J M Martin and J Tivnan confirmed that they had assumed the Torpoint Archives Committee would relinquish the rooms currently occupied when granted use of the Annexe. The Clerk reminded members that this Council had agreed occupancy terms of the Annexe but that the resolution had not requested the Archives relinquish occupancy of the rooms currently occupied. It was therefore **recommended** that should the Archives still wish to retain rooms 3 and 4 then the full occupancy fee is charged with no discounts applicable.

(The Town Mayor, Councillors E H Andrews and Mrs R A Southworth declared non registerable interests and left the Chamber whilst this matter was debated – Councillor Mrs C I A Trueman took the chair whilst this matter was discussed).

- c) Hiring Charges – Although it is understood that the Town Mayor is pursuing the matter of charging in Benodet Park it was **recommended** that the proposed hiring charge remains as it was conceded that the hiring charge also includes the use of the tea hut and electricity supply.

Other points of note:-

It is suggested that the occupiers of room 1 and 2 are permitted to continue with the proposed improvements to the lobby and entrance area in 4, York Road, with the exception of the fire place. Members consider that it is inappropriate and out of keeping to the entrance to site this in the area.

### **54-13FGP To recommend the budget for the 2014/2015 financial year.**

Members considered the budget proposals for the forthcoming fiscal year using the circulated actual working paper as a base. The Council also considered the implications of the development plan The

**recommended** final proposal to Council is attached as appendix "B" to these minutes with a proposed precept of £167,117 (this represents an increase of just under 2% on the 2013-14 precept) and as part of a total expenditure budget of £215,050. However it was also **recommended** that should the information on potential funding not be available from Cornwall Council in time for the November Council meeting then this matter be deferred until the December meeting for a decision.

Two points of note:-

- a) The salary scales for the staff were confirmed as Town Clerk Sp pt 39 full time equivalent plus superannuation, Town Administrator Sp pt 21 25/37 plus superannuation, Caretaker/Handyman Sp pt 10 plus superannuation and allowance, External Caretakers (2 members of staff) Sp pt 10 – one member of staff on 20/37 hours and the other on 15/37 hours.
- b) It is proposed that two new cost centres are created :-
  - i) Localism – with a budget of £1,000
  - ii) Neighbourhood Plan – with a budget of £2,000.

#### **55-13FGP Emergency items referred to this Committee:-**

The Chairman (Councillor Mrs R A Southworth) asked members to consider the recent consultation on proposed increases in charges on both the Tamar Bridge and also the Torpoint Ferry. Councillor G J Davis informed members that he has been approached to residents objecting to the proposed account charge of 80p per month. The Town Mayor suggested that no one likes an increase but a general increase of 80p per tag account was in his opinion probably the fairest method. It was noted that the vehicular traffic on the bridge was far in excess of that on the ferry. The Mayor noted that Saltash members were supportive of apportioning any increase onto those using the ferries. It was therefore suggested that the Council might consider supporting a general increase on tag accounts but that any deficiencies with the service are made known to the authorities.

#### **56-13FGP Date of Next Meeting.**

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2013.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm .....Chairman.