

## STOWMARKET TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of **STOWMARKET TOWN COUNCIL** held in the John Milton Room, Milton House, Milton Road South on Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2015 at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillor G M Brewster (Town Mayor)

Councillors: N G K Gowrley  
G Green  
G P Harris  
Mrs L M Mayes  
N J Rozier  
B J Salmon (Deputy Town Mayor)  
K E Scarff  
Mrs V I Waspe

In attendance: Mr D G Blackburn (Town Clerk)

Present: Mr M Allcock (Accounting & Finance Officer)  
Miss S A Goonan (Accounting & Finance Manager)  
Ms M L Marshall (Deputy Town Clerk)

### 308. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ms S L Britton, B Humphreys, D J MacPherson, Mrs P J E Robinson, Mrs A E J Whybrow and D S Whybrow.

### 309. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY OR NON PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Councillor G M Brewster declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 316 as the acting Chair of the Museum of East Anglian Life.

Councillor N G K Gowrley declared a non-pecuniary interest in items 316 and 317 as a Trustee of Mid Suffolk Citizens Advice Bureau.

### 310. DISPENSATIONS IN RESPECT OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were none.

### 311. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor's announcements for the period Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> December, 2014 to Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2015 were received by the Council.

### 312. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2015 be approved and signed as a correct record.

313. MINUTES OF THE REGAL COMMITTEE MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Regal Committee meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2015 be received.

314. MINUTES OF THE RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 13<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2015

The Town Clerk introduced the recommendations contained within the Minutes of the Risk Management Committee held on 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2015.

RESOLVED:

- a. That the minutes of the Risk Management Committee meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2015 be received;
- b. That the report of the Internal Auditor be received and noted, and actions be endorsed to address the recommendations contained within the report;
- c. That the Budget Risks identified by the Committee be included within the Budget Book presented to the Budget setting meeting of the Council;
- d. That the Employer's Discretionary Policy be approved and adopted;
- e. That the Members and Staff Joint Working Protocol be approved and adopted; and
- f. That the IT Systems, Internet, Social Media and Email Policy be approved and adopted.

315. QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDERS

There were none.

316. BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2015/2016

The Town Clerk submitted a report, C/22/1415, copy on report file providing Members with the relevant information in order to determine the Council's Budget and Precept for 2015/2016.

RESOLVED:

- a. That the Precept for 2015/2016 be set at £767,917.21 which equates to a 1.8% increase for Band D properties;
- b. That the Town Council's Budget for 2015/2016 be approved;
- c. That the revenue contribution to capital in 2015/2016 be approved;
- d. That the Town Council's scheme of designated reserves for 2015/2016 be approved; and
- e. That a cross-party Financial Strategy Group be established to examine the budget and options for the Precept ahead of the budget-setting meeting of Council.

317. CAPITAL ALLOCATION FOR THE MILTON HOUSE REFURBISHMENT PROJECT

The Deputy Town Clerk submitted a report, C/23/1415, copy on report file, regarding a project to provide the CAB with additional rooms within the Milton House Business Suite.

Capital funding approval was sought for the replacement of the fuse board in the Milton House Business Suite as the existing fuse board was old and unable to cope with any additional demand. The source of funds was the Capital Fund with a capital approval of £3,000 sought from Council.

Capital funding approval was also sought for the Milton House Refurbishment Project to enable the reconfiguration and renovation of the accommodation. The sources of funds would be £10,000 from the Capital Fund and £10,000 from revenue with spend from the Corporate cost centre.

The return on investment was expected to be in the region of twice the initial outlay over a period of five years.

RESOLVED: That CAF/01/1415 - Replacement of fuse board in Milton House for £3,000 and CAF/02/1415 - Milton House Refurbishment for £20,000 (with £10,000 from revenue) be approved.

318. REVISED CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

The Town Clerk submitted a report, C/24/1415, copy on report file regarding a revised programme of meetings.

RESOLVED: That the revised calendar of meetings be approved.

319. TOWN MAYOR ELECT

RESOLVED: That Councillor B J Salmon be appointed Mayor Elect for 2015/16.

320. ITEMS OF REPORT AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Councillor Mrs L M Mayes reported that an application for financial assistance to the Stowmarket Relief Trust for the Redwoods Lunch Club had been approved.

321. PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

RESOLVED: That by virtue of the provision of section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the public be excluded from the rest of the meeting on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by virtue of the confidential nature.

322. THEATRE PROVISION WITHIN STOWMARKET

The Town Clerk gave an update on ongoing discussions with regard to the improvement of the Regal Theatre which contained commercially sensitive information.

RESOLVED: That the actions taken by the Town Clerk, up to the date of the meeting, be ratified by the Council.

The meeting ended at 8.05pm.

CHAIRMAN