

HALESWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
6.15pm March 23rd 2015
HELD IN THE DAY CENTRE
LONDON ROAD, HALESWORTH

REPORT

Present: Cllrs; M Took (Chair), A Dunning, L. Smith, P Widdowson, N Bocking

In attendance: N. Rees –Acting Clerk, Mr Alan Holzer and Mr Marting Ducker (HPFA) and 4 members of the public.

- 1) **Apologies:** None
- 2) **Declarations of Interest:** Cllr N Bocking for item 9A, Cllr L Smith for item 9A, Cllr A Dunning for items 7 & 9A and Cllr M Took for item 7.
- 3) **Minutes:** It was noted that the minutes of the meeting held on the 16^h February was approved at the monthly meeting held on the 2nd March, 2015
- 4) **Halesworth Station Building:** Nothing to report this month.
- 5) **Current Financial Position:** The Committee received and noted the following:-
 - a. Bank balances
 - b. Review of the year's financial statement
- 6) **Day Centre:** The Committee received and noted the list of additional meetings. It was proposed and agreed to increase the donation from £10 to £12 per meeting for these additional meetings during 2014 and for this rate to be used in future, until agreed otherwise.
- 7) **GAPPA:**
 - a. Play Equipment/Park: There were no updates to consider at this stage except it was noted that WDC has still not confirmed permission to use the park.
 - b. To consider the Council's contribution to the project. After considering the information (Item 5b), the Committee agreed to recommend that the Council contributes £5,000 towards the project from the 2014/2015 budget.
- 8) **Defibrillator:** It was noted that the legal fees for amending the lease to allow installation of the defibrillator in Lloyds Bank's cash point room were £1,500. The Landlord used a firm of solicitors based in London and after some research it was noted that this seemed to be the going rate for this type of work. The Committee appreciated that the Defibrillator had been donated and that the costs of installation would be borne by Lloyds bank. It was agreed that this was the perfect location and as there were no other obvious places it could go that would be accessible and have power supplied, the Committee agreed to recommend that the legal fees are paid by the Council.
- 9) **Grants:** To consider the following grant applications for 2015/2016:-
 - a. **Halesworth Playing Fields Association:** *Legal Fees:* Mr Alan Holzer and Mr Martin Ducker (Chair of HPFA) attended the meeting and outlined the difficulties that the Association were facing. It was explained by Mr Holzer, that the HPFA were revising the request for a payment of £9,000 towards the legal fees. Instead they would be asking the Council to consider covering an ongoing monthly retaining fee to HPFA's Solicitors of £200 per month. It was accepted that it

would appear inappropriate for the Committee to put forward a recommendation on this item, as the majority of Committee members in attendance were also Council representatives and members of the Halesworth Playing Fields Association. It was agreed that the matter would be brought to the whole Council on April 13th to consider the item without any prior recommendation from the Finance Committee.

- b. **Halesworth Tourism Group:** *Website costs:* It was agreed to recommend approval of the grant application for £540 towards meeting some of the costs of the website.
- c. **Suffolk County Council:** *Safety improvements to Edgar Sewter School layby.* It was agreed that the Committee could not recommend approval or otherwise without more information. It was agreed that this application would be brought to the Council to consider on April 13th without any prior recommendation from the Finance Committee. It was hoped that Cllr Goldson would be able to attend to explain the matter further.

- 10) **Dog Bin:** To consider the cost of a dog waste bin on Harrisons Lane. It was also brought to the attention of the Council that a request had been made for a Dog Bin on the corner of Station Road/Chichester Road and that there was also one requested on Roman Way. It was hoped that the current cost of £353.49 for a single bin could be reduced if three bins were ordered and the Committee agreed to recommend that the Acting Clerk be given a budget of £1,000 to purchase the necessary bins. It was also agreed that the Acting Clerk should confirm with Waveney Norse that they would be willing to empty the additional bins.

Date of Next Meeting: April 20th, 2015 at 6.15pm

Meeting closed at 7.25pm.