

## STOCKSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee of the Town Council, held in the Council Chamber, Stocksbridge Town Hall, on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024

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PRESENT: Cllr. R Crowther (Chair), Cllrs. M Whittaker, K Davis, J Grocutt, A Law, J Wood

IN ATTENDANCE:- S Tarff and L Dixon, The Venue – Item 4

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1. Chairman's Remarks and Apologies for Absence  
Apologies for Absence were received from Cllrs. S Abrahams, J Staniforth
2. Exclusion of Press and Public  
There were no items for exclusion of Press and Public
3. Declarations of Interest  
There were no Declarations of Interest.
4. The Venue  
The Chairman welcomed Sam Tarff and Lauren Dixon to the meeting who had requested an invitation in order to discuss funding support for community based groups to fund room hire at The Venue, who were struggling despite their discounted pricing policy. Copies of a report had been previously circulated to members. The request was for £12,000 of funding.  
ST discussed further the report that had been circulated and responded to questions raised by members, including the proposed funding process, the impact on other venues within the Town, the sustainability of the groups obtaining assistance once the funding had been utilized.  
The Chairman thanked ST and LD for their attendance and informative discussion. They then left the meeting.  
Members further considered and discussed and the information presented.  
Proposed by Cllr. M Whittaker, seconded by Cllr. A Law and  
**RESOLVED:-** That funding is not awarded on this occasion as it was deemed to be setting a precedent and not a sustainable solution. It was noted that groups can apply directly to the Town Council for assistance with room hire costs.
5. Grant Applications
  - a) Steel Valley Beacon Arts  
Members considered a grant application from Steel Valley Beacon Arts requesting funding assistance towards costs associated with an upcoming production of Disney's Beauty and the Beast.  
Proposed by Cllr. J Wood, seconded by Cllr. J Grocutt and  
**RESOLVED:-** That a grant of £300 be awarded to Steel Valley Beacon Arts for funding assistance towards costs associated with an upcoming production of Disney's Beauty and the Beast. Funding to be taken from the Grants budget for 2024/25.
  - b) Stocksbridge Christian Centre Lunch Club  
Members considered a grant application from Stocksbridge Christian Centre Lunch Club requesting assistance towards transport costs to enable members to attend the Lunch Club who would otherwise not be able to benefit from the facility.  
Proposed by Cllr. M Whittaker, seconded by Cllr. K Davis and  
**RESOLVED:-** That a transport grant of £300 be awarded to Stocksbridge Christian Centre Lunch Club to enable members to attend the fortnightly Lunch Club who would otherwise not be able to benefit from the facility.
  - c) Food Matters – The Stocksbridge Food Bank  
Members considered a grant application from Food Matters – The Stocksbridge Food Bank requesting funding assistance to cover the costs of a CAB worker one day per week over 17 weeks. The Clerk undertook to contact I Lucraft inviting discussion regarding the application.

d) St Anns Friends and Family

Members received a grant application from St Anns Friends and Family requesting funding towards the costs of celebrations for the school's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Proposed by Cllr. K Davis, seconded by Cllr. J Wood and

RESOLVED:- That a grant of £790 be awarded to St Anns Friends and Family towards the costs of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations of the school.

6. Illuminated Remembrance Soldier Features

The Clerk tabled quotations for replacement/refurbishment of the illuminated soldier features mounted on the Clock Tower.

Proposed by Cllr. K Davis, seconded by Cllr. J Wood and

RESOLVED:- That the Town Council accept the quotation from City Illuminations of £1,100 plus VAT for the refurbishment of the illuminated soldier features mounted on the Clock Tower, including the removal and re-installation costs.

7. Review of Risk Assessments, Audit Arrangements, Financial Regulations

Members reviewed the Town Council's risk assessment, system of internal audit and financial regulations and all potential hazards and controls associated with them. The Clerk noted the Fidelity Guarantee sum of £500,000 would be adequate for the financial year 2024/25.

Proposed by Cllr. M Whittaker, seconded by Cllr. J Grocutt and

RECOMMENDED:- That the Town Council accept the risk assessment forms, system of internal audit forms and financial regulations as supplied by the Clerk and noted that the Town Council have sufficient controls in place to accommodate the potential hazards faced by the Town Council.

8. Lone Working Policy in the Workplace

Members considered a policy regarding Lone Working in the Workplace as tabled by the Clerk for consideration and recommendation.

Proposed by Cllr. J Grocutt, seconded by Cllr. K Davis and

RECOMMENDED:- That the Town Council adopt the policy regarding Lone Working in the Workplace as tabled by the Clerk, with immediate effect.

9. Grievance and Disciplinary Policies

The Clerk tabled the latest version of the Grievance and Disciplinary Policies as advised by NALC for consideration and recommendation.

Proposed by Cllr. K Davis, seconded by Cllr. A Law and

RECOMMENDED:- That the Town Council adopt the latest version of the Grievance and Disciplinary Policies as advised by NALC, with immediate effect.

10. Stocksbridge History Society

Members considered the request from Stocksbridge History Society for assistance with room rental and business rates for the Valley Museum for the financial year 2024/25.

Proposed by Cllr. J Grocutt, seconded by Cllr. M Whittaker and

RESOLVED:- That approval be given for Stocksbridge History Society to use Rooms 4 and 5, exempt of rental charges and business rates, for the purpose of the Valley Museum for the financial year 2024/25.

11. Accounts for Authorisation

There were no accounts for authorisation.

12. Summary of Bad Debts

There were no bad debts to report.

There being no further business the meeting closed.