

MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the **POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE** held in the Guildhall, Mill Street, Ludlow on **MONDAY 30th NOVEMBER 2015** at **7.00PM**

PF/67 PRESENT

Chairman: Councillor Cobley

Councillors: Clarke, Draper, Gill, Ginger, Lyle, Parry, Smithers and Sheward

Officers: Sarah Hughes, Finance Assistant

Also Attending: Penny Birdstrup, Fairtrade
Phillip Hume, Fairtrade

PF/68 HEALTH & SAFETY

The Chairman informed Councillors and members of the public of the fire exits, fire assembly point and asked that everyone sign the attendance log.

PF/69 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from the Town Clerk, Councillors R Jones and Kemp.

PF/70 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests
None.

Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

<u>Member</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Reason</u>
D. Lyle	12	Ludlow 21 Board Member
V. Parry	12	Attended a Fairtrade meeting
A. Cobley	10	Pension paid through Shropshire Council
A. Cobley	13	Line manager is also treasurer of Youth Forum
A. Cobley	14	Food bank is based in Rockspring Community Centre
A. Cobley	11	Library is based in Craven Arms Community Centre.

Declarations of Personal Interest

<u>Member</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Reason</u>
V. Parry	13	South Shropshire Youth Forum
J. Smithers	13	Trustee and Ludlow Town Council Representative of South Shropshire Youth Forum
C. Sheward	10	Pension through Shropshire Council

PF/71 AGENDA ITEM RE-ORDER

A request was made for Item 12 to be moved up the agenda.

RESOLVED (Unanimous) AC/PD

That Item 12 (Fairtrade) is moved to Item 10.

PF/72 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION (15 minutes)

There were no members of the public or press present.

PF/73 UNITARY COUNCILLORS SESSION

Councillor Parry informed Members that she had attended a meeting at Shropshire Council regarding their Financial Strategy.

PF/74 MINUTES**RESOLVED (8:0:1) PD/TG**

That the open session minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held on 26th October 2015, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

PF/75 ITEMS TO ACTION**RESOLVED (Unanimous) PD/TG**

That the Items to Action be noted

PF/76 FINANCIAL INFORMATION**RESOLVED (Unanimous) AC/JS**

That the Payments and Income Reports, Barclaycard Statement, Bank Reconciliation for October 2015 and PayPal Reconciliation be received.

PF/77 REPRESENTATIONAL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Chairman noted that the amendments to the Project Support Grant were practical and sensible, and thanked the Representational committee for their proposal.

Councillor Ginger added that there are a number of local small organisations that rely entirely on Project Support Grants. It would also mean that smaller core annual grants will be monitored in more detail annually.

RECOMMENDED (Unanimous GG/PD)

In line with the policy that all grants will be applied for annually:

- i) From April 2016, Representational Committee receives applications for grants of up to £300.00 to provide ongoing annual support to local organisations and one-off project support
- ii) The grant is renamed Annual & Project Support Grants
- iii) The criteria is amended to state that the purpose of the grant can be either a one-off project or support for an established local initiative
- iv) Representational Committee retains a budget of £2,000.00

PF/78 FAIRTRADE TOWN STATUS

Phillip Hume presented to members regarding Ludlow's relationship with the Fair Trade movement.

He stated that the principles of Fair Trade are very prominent within Ludlow businesses, and how encouraging it is to see this being advertised by traders more widely.

Philip talked to members about the benefits of Fair Trade to producers and their communities, and how Ludlow is considered to be one of the leading towns in the UK, having been one of the first in the country to be accredited with Fair Trade status.

He added that in order to retain this status, a review must be conducted every 2 years with progress and future planning being considered. Phillip stressed the importance of the Town Council to the movement, and proposed that a group is nominated so that ideas can be brought forward to Council in the future.

The Chair thanked Mr Hume for his presentation and for attending the meeting.

Councillor Ginger added that this was a positive move for Ludlow and that he supported the involvement of the Town Council.

RECOMMENDED (Unanimous) GG/AC

To support Fair Trade by setting up a Working Group.

PF/79 **RECOMMENDED (Unanimous) PD/JS**

That Councillor Lyle, Councillor Parry and Councillor Cobley are nominated for the Fair Trade Working Group.

PF/80 **SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL STRATEGY**

Councillor Parry informed members that she has attended a meeting at Shropshire Council regarding their Financial Strategy. She added that the strategy is being changed and will be going to a meeting of Full Council at Shropshire Council on 17th December, which she would be attending.

Councillor Sheward added he felt the Strategy is out of line with the Chancellor's Autumn Statement.

Councillor Parry added that she would like to see the final statement brought back to Council

RESOLVED (Unanimous) TG/PD

To:-

- i) Note Shropshire Council's Financial Strategy
- ii) The final version to be approved by Shropshire Council on 17th December is brought to the Policy & Finance Committee.

PF/81 **BIG CONVERSATION**

Members agreed that the consultation seemed to have been put together in haste.

RESOLVED (Unanimous) JS/PD

To:-

- i) Note the Big Conversation and respond individually
- ii) Put a link to the survey on the Town Council website

PF/82 **CONSULTATION**

Councillor Sheward stated he felt the questions within the consultation were impossible to answer within the confines of Shropshire Council as it asks you to compare between Statutory and Non-Statutory services.

Councillor Gill agreed and added that the consultation is Shropshire Council attempting to legitimise the cuts and relinquish themselves of blame. He suggested that a letter is written to explain these views to Shropshire Council.

RESOLVED (Unanimous) CS/TG

To write to Shropshire Council to express concerns regarding the ambiguity of Big Conversation consultation.

PF/83 SOUTH SHROPSHIRE YOUTH FORUM (SSYF)

Councillor Smithers stated that he attended the AGM for the Youth Forum.

Councillor Gill stated that more detail is needed regarding the expenditure if we are to give grant funding to the organisation.

Councillor Lyle asked if the detailed accounts are available, to which Councillor Smithers responded that he will ask Richard Morley for this information to pass on to members.

RESOLVED (Unanimous) PD/AC

To:-

i) Note the Report from SSYF

ii) Request detailed accounts for 2014/15 and a presentation from SSYF regarding 2015/16 activities and spending.

PF/84 LUDLOW FOOD BANK

Councillors commented on the importance of the food bank operation and the good work of the organisation

RESOLVED (Unanimous) AC/JS

To note the report for January – September 2015

The meeting closed at 8.05pm

Chairman

Date

N.B. No Closed Session Minutes will be issued.