

**MEETING OF THE POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE** held at The Guildhall, Faversham, on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2019

**Present:**

Cllr K Barker	Cllr C Belsom	Cllr T Martin
Cllr D Knights	Cllr J Saunders	Cllr B J Martin
The Mayor, Cllr A Reynolds	Cllr A Hook	

**In Attendance:**

L Bareham

31. **Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Thomas

32. **Declarations of Interest**

None

33. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising**

Cllr Barker proposed, seconded by Cllr T Martin and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to approve the minutes***

34. **Financial Regulations**

It was proposed by Cllr T Martin, seconded by Cllr Knights and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to delegate drafting of the Financial Regulations to Cllr Barker and the Town Clerk***

35. **Banking**

Cllr Barker confirmed he had met with CCLA but felt neither of their funds were appropriate for the Council and will continue to look at alternatives that offered the FSCS. It agreed that a bank with a branch in the town would be best, and he confirmed that he would be looking at Nationwide in the first instance.

36. **Earmarked Reserves**

Cllr Hook couldn't see the prospect of the ZF5 being built for some years and thought there were other ways to use the money. Cllr Saunders challenged the suggestion, as it was such a small sum and, as there were no alternative plans for spending money, it may be premature. He raised concerns about the creditability of the Town Council as a reliable partner and noted the previous Council had made a financial commitment to the swing bridge too.

Cllr Barker thanked Cllr Saunders for showing him the footpath, he found the word 'support' troubling and irrelevant as KCC had a legal obligation to provide the path. He felt the money could sit in EMRs for some time and could be better spent today on other projects. The jetty was one of a few sources of income with an immediate possible return.

Cllr Irwin agreed the discussion was not whether the Council supported the path but about the viable use of the £5,000 in reserves.

It was proposed by Cllr Barker, seconded by Cllr Hook and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to move the £5,000 from ZF5 Footpath to the Town Jetty**

VOTE: FOR 6 AGAINST 3

The Town Clerk explained the history to the funds in Youth, which had been an accrual of unspent funds over the previous three years. There is £15,000 in EMRs for the skatepark at the Rec with an additional £3,000 budgeted this year. More information was requested about SBC's plans and whether the money could be used to provide equipment at either Millfield or Love Lane parks.

It was proposed by Cllr Irwin, seconded by Cllr Knights and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to move the funds into Youth and Recreation**

37. **12 Market Place**

The Town Clerk confirmed that representatives of the Faversham Society had agreed to meet to discuss Option 2.

Cllr Irwin explained the proposed draft consultation criteria document, which he had drafted with Cllr Barker. Cllr Barker reiterated the need to consult with the public but was also concerned about survey bias and the need to present an option that was deliverable rather than just desirable.

Cllr Saunders reminded Members that we were a Town Council and not a business, confirmed that his manifesto was to make better use of the building for the community, but agreed with the document as long as it was not the total decision making model. Cllr Hook suggested the Council could be guided by it in order to communicate options. It was agreed to host a public meeting at the end of October, or early November to present the options. Cllr Barker felt the economic benefit to the community needed to be recorded. Cllr Saunders noted that a number of residents had expressed their disappointment that the current use of No 12 had not been included as one of the options for consideration. It was generally agreed that this should be a baseline.

It was proposed by Cllr Saunders, seconded by Cllr Barker and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to add Option 4 Exhibition Space (current use)**

It was agreed that the following councillors would be the main working group Cllrs Saunders, T Martin, Irwin, B J Martin, Barker, The Mayor Cllr Reynolds. The Town Clerk would arrange the necessary meetings with potential stakeholders.

38. **Town Jetty**

It was noted that the structural survey was still awaited from Mr Pain and no quotes had actually been received. Clarification on the proposed management of the lease was required and it was noted that the Council's Financial Regulations required that three quotations be sought. It was agreed that tenders should be invited for the repair and the repair and management with regard to the benefit of the community.

Cllr Saunders proposed, seconded by Cllr Barker and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to form a small working group to agree the tendering process and produce a specification for (1) repairs (2) management***

It was also agreed to request the survey from Mr Pain.

39. **Equality and Diversity**

It was proposed by Cllr B J Martin, seconded by Cllr Irwin and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to set up an Equality and Diversity Working Group, which would report directly to the Town Council, looking at equality and diversity within the Council and the Town.***

40. **Economic Development**

It was proposed by Cllr B Martin, seconded by Cllr Irwin and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED that Cllrs T Martin and Knights formed the Economic Development Working Group***

It was proposed by Cllr Irwin, seconded by Cllr Barker and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED that Cllr T Martin is the Town Council representative on the Joint Marketing Board***

Cllr Barker asked for the Background to the Economic Development Officer's Role report to include the date of July 2017 when the Faversham Business Partnership was dissolved and July 2017 when the Faversham Traders' Association was formed.

41. **Sports Council**

Cllr T Martin suggested a sports council was formed to help develop youth facilities, share ideas and funding opportunities. It was agreed to write to sports clubs to gauge interest and look to set a date for a meeting. It was proposed by Cllr B J Martin, seconded by Cllr Irwin and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED to form a Sports Council***

42. **Any Other Business**

Cllr Irwin asked that social media and complaint policies were reviewed at the next meeting.

It was Resolved that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as

publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

43. **Honorary Freeman**

Names were proposed and discreet enquiries will be made in the first instance by the Town Clerk.