

**Minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee meeting held on  
Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2012  
in the Committee Room, Clayport Street, Alnwick at 7.15pm.**

**Present:** Cllrs Castle (Chairman), S Allcroft, K Gray, B Griddale, R Roberts, A Symmonds.

**In attendance:** Cllr D Farrar, and W Batey, Chief Officer and Town Clerk.

**FP 12/6. Apologies:** Cllrs S Patience..

**FP 12/7. Declaration of Interests**

Councillor Roberts declared an interest in the grant request for Passion for Northumberland (minute 12/11).

**FP 12/8. Budget Update**

The clerk circulated the Committee budget as at the 17<sup>th</sup> September. 2012. This was examined line by line and showed that expenditure was £26,825 against a budget of £66,500. The overall Receipts and Payments Account for the same period was also reviewed, this showed a carry forward balance of £108,344.

**RESOLVED: That the budget update be received.**

**FP 12/9. Review of Subscriptions**

The Council's current subscriptions were reviewed. These were:

- a) Northumberland Association of Local Council's (NALC (£749.61). It was agreed that this was beneficial to the council.
- b) The Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM) (£90). This was also regarded as beneficial.
- c) The Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) (£29). Some Councillors questioned if the council should continue this subscription and further details were requested for the next meeting.
- d) Northumberland & Newcastle Society (£15). The benefit to the Council was questioned and further details were requested for the next meeting.

**RESOLVED: To continue with the subscriptions for The Northumberland Association of Local Council's and The Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management and to receive a further report on the benefits of the subscriptions to The Campaign for the Protection of Rural England and Northumberland & Newcastle Society.**

**FP 12/10. Future Transfer of Services**

The clerk outlined the current thinking from Northumberland County Council regarding the future transfer of services which has been explained at a meeting where the Mayor and Councillor Patience were also present. For 2013/14, the County Council is proposing the transfer of Swansfield Park to the Town Council. The Town Council has made it clear that any transfer would require the handing over of the endowment paid by the developer for future maintenance. The finger post signs in the town may also transfer; this makes sense as other street furniture belongs to the Town Council. The County Council has also agreed to have further discussions about the Alnwick North Community Centre and St Thomas's Close Workshops. Councillors asked questions about the status of the Column Field which is owned by Northumberland Estates and leased to the County Council. It was agreed to establish why this park is not considered to be strategic.

**RESOLVED: To receive the update.**

### **FP 12/11 Grant Request – Passion for Northumberland**

A grant request had been received towards the costs of staging a Passion Play next Easter in the Alnwick Market Place. The event would involve local churches, choirs and community groups and had an estimated budget requirement of £8,000. The grant request was for £2000. Councillors discussed the application and it was proposed to award a grant of £500 plus the use of the council's stage, if needed.

**RESOLVED: To award a grant of £500 and offer the use of the council stage, if needed.**

### **FP 12/12. Any Other Urgent Business**

- a) The clerk highlighted that the Council's Treasury Bond held with Barclay's will mature on 16<sup>th</sup> November (in advance of the next meeting). In the event that a new investment decision is required, this would be made in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee. Councillors were keen to emphasize the balance between the return and the risk.
- b) Correspondence has recently been received about the Government's High Street X Fund. This is looking to receive nominations about innovative schemes which have been implemented since May 2011. The successful locations will receive a share of the £1million available. The closing date is 6<sup>th</sup> December 2012. Councillors discussed the criteria and felt the only aspect that may be worth highlighting was the successful Festival of Alnwick. It was agreed that the clerk would look at the further with the Festival Chairman and the Festival Coordinator.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm