

FINANCE, POLICY & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Date & Time: Monday 26th January 2015 at 7.30pm

Place: Rose Rent Room, the Tythings, Council Offices,
Yateley

Present: COUNCILLORS

Murr (Chair)

Bailey (Vice Chair) a.Hennell

Billings Keane

a.Crisp a.Lit

Easterbrook Whitaker

Harward

OFFICER

Town Clerk

Also present: Councillor Cockarill, Andrew Sheldon, British Red Cross,
Yateley Branch

1238 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Crisp, Hennell, and Lit.

1239 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

1240 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Whitaker and the Town Clerk declared interests in item 1246 in so far as it included grant funding for the Yelabus, the committee of which both were members.

1241 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The member of the public present was invited to address the committee during the discussion regarding the extension to the Red Cross Hut lease..

1242 **YATELEY RED CROSS HUT – LEASE EXTENSION**

Andrew Sheldon, representing the Yateley branch of the Red Cross explained to members that the 21 year lease his organisation had, originally with Hart DC but now, following the transfer of the land, with the Town Council, was due to expire in June 2015. He requested that the lease be extended for a further 21 years on the same terms and conditions as the existing lease.

Members resolved to agree to the lease extension and to refer the matter to the Town Council's solicitors, subject to the Red Cross agreeing to meet the council's reasonable legal costs. It was further agreed, when possible and convenient, to also extend the lease to the adjacent Scout hut so that the two leases would, in future, run to the same timescale.

1243 **FINANCIAL STATEMENT UPDATE & RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES**

1. Members noted the most recent financial monitoring statement for the period October/November. With regard to the council's reserves, it was reported that investigations were still ongoing with respect to the best place for the money received in respect of the SANG to be invested and a further report would be made to the next meeting.
2. The bank reconciliations for the period to the 30th of November were noted and approved.
3. The committee were pleased to note that almost all outstanding accounts had been settled.
4. It was reported that the Environment Committee had recommended the payment of an invoice for £2,803.50 to Designs for Living for further work in relation to the plans to upgrade the Town Council's street lighting stock to adoptable standards. The committee resolved to make the payment but requested a progress report be made to the next Environment Committee.

1244 **REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

1. Yateley Hockey Club

Following on from the presentation by the Hockey Club at the previous Town Council meeting, members considered the club's plans for developing an artificial pitch in Eversley. Members expressed support for the club's plans and noted in particular the success in attracting national funding. It was agreed to encourage the club to apply for funding under the council's normal grant funding process. Councillor Billings also reported that the club's needs had been raised with the District Council.

2. Hire Charges

It was reported that a grant application had been received from a group faced with increased costs as a result of increases in Town Council hire charges. It was agreed to defer consideration of this request. Members agreed that any similar requests would need to be considered on their merits taking into account the impact on each group.

1245 **YATELEY VILLAGE HALL**

The committee noted the ongoing improvement in booking levels at the Village Hall and that the Management Committee's business plan and financial projections were in the process of being updated and would be circulated to members when received.

1246 **BUDGET 2015/16**

Members considered at length the draft budget for the coming financial year. Members discussed those areas where it was necessary to increase or decrease the current year's budget. Members also considered the anticipated level of general reserves and their adequateness.

After considerable debate, it was recommended that a precept of £396,723 be sought and the draft budget, as presented to the committee, be approved. Although this represented an increase of 1.59%, it was pointed out that this was identical to the increase in the tax base.

During discussion of the anticipated income, and the Town Council's ground maintenance contract, members agreed to discuss with Yateley Utd FC, the possibility of continuing the current arrangements for the maintenance of the football pitches at Devereux Park.

1247 **SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS**

The schedule of accounts, as appended to these minutes, was approved.

The meeting finished at approximately 9.10pm

Chair.....