

HEBDEN ROYD TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting of the STRATEGY & REVIEW COMMITTEE Held 19th JUNE 2019

MINUTES

PRESENT : Councillors: Stow (Chair after minute 87), Courtney, Freeth, Hodgins, Needham & Young.

Clerk: J Boom

87. ELECTION OF CHAIR & DEPUTY CHAIR

It was **proposed** by Councillor Needham
Seconded by Councillor Young
Unanimously resolved; that Councillor Stow be elected **Chair of the Strategy & Review Committee** for the year 2019/20.

It was **proposed** by Councillor Stow
Seconded by Councillor Hodgins
Unanimously resolved: that Councillor Needham be elected **Deputy Committee Chair** for the year 2019/20.

88. APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE & SUBSTITUTIONS

Cllr Warne with Cllr Hodgins substituting and Cllr Boggis.

89. Members` Interests relating to agenda items for this meeting.

None declared at this time.

90. Matters arising from Minutes of Meeting held 27th March 2019 not itemised on this Agenda

The Clerk confirmed that the Town Council now held Quality Parish Status.

91. POLICY & DOCUMENT REVIEW

Members present reviewed the Reserves & Balances Policy considering the calculation as recommended.

It was **proposed** by Councillor Stow

Seconded by Councillor Hodgins

Resolved: to recommend that the policy be re-adopted for the life of the council and that over the life of the council it should work to increase its reserves from 3 months of the balances as calculated to 4 months.

It was noted that currently the Picture House had not adopted a reserves and balances policy.

It was agreed that other policies under the control of the Strategy & Review Committee be considered at future meetings.

92.

INDEPENDENT MYTHOLMROYD CAMPAIGN

The original proposal was discussed by members at length and a communication received from Cllr Boggis was also considered. The committee accepted that in the terms presented it appeared that Hebden Bridge received a larger proportion of funding than Mytholmroyd from HRTC. However, it was pointed out that neither document attempted a geographic analysis of the *membership* of groups applying for funding nor of *participants* attending funded events or centres. This division was therefore felt to be artificial. Mytholmroyd councillors in attendance advised that their fellow Mytholmroyd councillors felt that they needed to be more active and work with groups in their locality to bring forward bids for funding for Mytholmroyd. They must encourage the people of Mytholmroyd and Cragg Vale to ask for funding, become involved and engage with the Town Council and councillors. It was confirmed by the Town Clerk that it is rare for funding applications to fail in their approaches to the Town Council for financial support regardless of their location within the parish.

Note: Cllr Courtney Arrived.

It was acknowledged that two geographically different communities exist. HRTC must allow each to develop and deliver their own objectives. Mytholmroyd and Cragg Vale councillors in particular need to work with their local communities, develop their social capital and identify and support possible grant applications and events which HRTC could facilitate.

It was **proposed** by Councillor Young

Seconded by Councillor Hodgins

Resolved: to recommend undertaking analysis of grants awarded in the recent past, looking to identify recipients, and users' locations. Cragg Vale should also benefit from this analysis. With the help of ward councillors identify needs across the parish and bring forward initiatives and suggestions for the whole area.

The committee felt that the needs identified should be reviewed annually and that if deemed appropriate additional funding could be raised through the precept to support actions. Funds would be distributed based on identified need.

- 93. INTERNAL CONTROL**
It was **proposed** by Councillor Young
Seconded by Councillor Needham
Unanimously resolved: to recommend adopting the checks as proposed on work undertaken by the internal financial checkers.
- 94. THE GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE**
The committee discussed the powers used by the Town Council currently and how as they sought to further support the community and take on more responsibilities the use of these powers may be stretched along with the free resource, Section 107 payments.
The Clerk presented the option of looking to adopt the General Power of Competence should the Town Council qualify.
It was **proposed** by Councillor Young
Seconded by Councillor Courtney
Unanimously resolved: to recommend the adoption of the General Power of Competence given the Town Council qualifies and that where training is needed this is undertaken to ensure the power is used appropriately.
- 95. SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AWARDS**
It was agreed that the awards were received gratefully by recipients and were seen to boost the morale and efforts of recipients. The awards are a useful tools to acknowledge achievements, either individually or for a group and the option to make an award to a group should remain open when choosing recipients each year.
It was **proposed** by Councillor Stow
Seconded by Councillor Courtney
Resolved: to recommend that a short document be produced outlining the awards, who they may be awarded to and details on how to nominate and who to contact regarding the awards.
- 96. MAYORS ALLOWANCE**
The committee discussed the allowance, how it can be used and how its value was calculated.
It was **proposed** by Councillor Courtney
Seconded by Councillor Young
Resolved: to recommend that the mayor's allowance be increased year on year at the value of the RPI for the life of this council.
- It was noted that should a Deputy Mayor attend an engagement on behalf of the Mayor then 'reasonable expenses can be expected' and this should be claimed from the mayor's allowance.
- 97. STRATEGIC AIMS & OBJECTIVES**
The current strategic aims and objectives were considered by the committee with consensus that these were historic and while providing context for the town council's activity in the past there is a need for the development of a business plan for the town council. This should

clearly outline the goals of the organisation and a timeline to assist in delivery of those goals.

The following was proposed:

Strategic Aims:

1. To consult, identify and assess the scale of challenges that individuals and groups in the parish generally face.
2. To support and empower individuals and groups to have a voice.
3. To explore if using powers under the General Power of Competence if there is an issue that HRTC can respond to.
4. To consult communities on what they consider should be the town council's priorities.

The many wide and varied sections of the community in Hebden Royd will have a say in the development of priorities and their delivery.

It was **proposed** by Councillor Needham

Seconded by Councillor Stow

Resolved: to recommend that a Task & Finish Group be established to develop these aims and should comprise Councillors Needham, Stow and Warne.

Meeting finished at 9.06pm.