

Minutes of a meeting of the **FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held on **Tuesday 10th February 2009** in the **Pavilion at Elm Park, Filton.**

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**PRESENT: - Cllrs: -** R Hutchinson (Chair), A Monk (Vice Chair), T Blake, D Daniels, B Freeguard, T Pomroy, A Tink

**APOLOGIES: - Cllrs:-** J Hutchinson, S Sims

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**227. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** There were none.

**228. PRESENTATION FROM FOUR TOWNS PLAY:** It was confirmed that the speaker was unable to attend due to illness.

**229. MINUTES of the meeting held 13th January 2009:** *From Minute 224ii) Bar Update* – Cllr Pomroy proposed that the wording of the sentence beginning “Members were divided” should be amended to read as follows “*Members were divided in their opinions as to whether the bar should be considered purely as a community bar that runs at a loss or run as a bar working with community involvement but making a profit*” The motion was seconded by Cllr Monk and put to the vote. The motion was carried with 3 votes in favour and 2 against. It was also agreed that the words “to full council” should be added after the words “report back” at the end of the last sentence.

**230. MATTERS ARISING:** *From Minute 219 – Hearing Loop System* – The Clerk confirmed that the quote received from Bristol Sounds System was much lower than the quote given by the RNID. *From Minute 219 – Town Guide* – It was noted that the gathering and updating of information for the new Town Guide is continuing. The Clerk asked members to contact her with any photos or articles which might be relevant. *From Minute 219 – Feasibility Study* – It was reported that the Council had been awarded a grant of £4,350 from the Community Sustainable Energy Programme. Sustain had confirmed that they were looking to carry out the work during March and have the final report ready by the end of March. *From Minute 220 iii) – Whistleblowing policy* – It was reported that the policy would be included in the new staff contracts. *From Minute 220i) Pension Liabilities* – The Council’s auditor had agreed to investigate and report back. *From Minute 222 – Fencing Quotes* – A number of residents from Elm Park had requested that the height of the fence be reduced from 6m to 5m in height. **Agreed:** to contact C & R Fencing, A.S.P. Fencing Contractors Ltd, plus one other company to re-quote for a 5m high fence.

**Action: Town Clerk**

**231. INCOME & EXPENDITURE REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2008:** The contents of the report were noted. Enquiries had been made with the accounts software company regarding more ‘profiled’ reporting. They had confirmed that although the software could be adapted to produce phased budget reporting, it was a mechanism that is normally used by companies in the private sector. **Agreed:** to re-visit at a later date.

**232. RENEWAL OF ELECTRICITY CONTRACT:** It was noted that the Council's contract with EDF Energy is due for renewal on 1st March 2009. Members agreed that it was an appropriate time to review the Council's energy supply contracts. **Agreed:** To contact South Gloucestershire Council and Bristol City Council for further advice and to obtain 3 quotes from dual suppliers and information on their carbon footprint. It was also agreed to limit the length of any future contracts until the outcome of the feasibility study is known.

**233. BAR UPDATE:**

**i) Bar Entertainment December/January:** A general discussion took place on the figures provided. It was reported that the bar committee have produced a more detailed spreadsheet which includes staffing costs.

**ii) Stocktaker's Report:** The contents of the report for the period covering 22nd December 2008 to 26th January 2009 were noted. It was confirmed that the gross profit had increased to 60% due to a number of new measures. These included the use of cellar services, a reduction in waste levels due to the use of 18 gallon barrels instead of 9 gallon barrels and reducing the selection of real ales on sale.

**234. POOL UPDATE:**

**i) Operation Manager's Report:** Members expressed their concern that such a detailed report had been tabled. The Clerk confirmed that it was due to a delay in information required by the operations manager in order to complete the report. It was noted that there were a number of issues in the report which needed an urgent decision.

**Replacement Heating Coil in the Air Handling Unit:** **Agreed:** to accept the quote of £2,584 from Miller & Hiron Heating and authorise the work to be carried out immediately.

**Water Tanks:** **Agreed:** to authorise the Clerk to obtain two further quotes and proceed with the work needed.

**Skatepark Fencing:** **Agreed:** to refer to the next meeting of full Council for an urgent decision.

**Action: Town Clerk**

**Agreed:** to defer full consideration of the report until the next meeting.

**ii) Free Swimming Update:** Cllr R Hutchinson confirmed that there were no further developments to report. It was confirmed that members would need to make a decision on whether to go ahead with the match funding of £5,000 required for the over 60's scheme proposed by South Gloucestershire Council. Members also discussed the financial implications involved in funding free swims for the under 16's. It was reported that South Gloucestershire Council had taken the decision not to offer free swims for this age group. **Agreed:** to report back with costings. **Agreed:** to proceed with the match funding scheme proposed by South Gloucestershire Council for the over 60's.

**Action: Town Clerk**

**235. GRANT APPLICATIONS:**

**i) Paul's Place: Agreed:** Not to award a grant but to offer the Council's support by displaying posters and stocking recycling bags for the charity's mobile phone recycling scheme.

**ii) The Owl Club: Agreed:** to award a grant of £200

**ii) Filton Pensioners:** Cllr R Hutchinson proposed a motion to award a grant of £220. The motion was seconded by Cllr Blake and put to the vote. The motion was defeated with 2 votes in favour and 4 against. Cllr R Hutchinson proposed a second motion to award a grant of £150. The motion was seconded by Cllr Monk and put to the vote. The motion was defeated with 3 votes in favour and 4 against. Cllr Freeguard proposed a motion that no grant should be awarded. The motion was seconded by Cllr Tink and put to the vote. The motion was carried with 4 votes in favour and 3 against. **Agreed:** To inform the group that their application had been unsuccessful this year.

**iii) Grants running total report :** The contents were noted.

**236. i) PLANNING APPLICATION – PT09/0171/F – 40 tenth avenue – demolition of existing dwelling to facilitate erection of 12 flats with new access and associated works.**

*Cllr R Hutchinson vacated the Chair. Cllr R Hutchinson and Cllr Freeguard left the room at this point and took no further part in the discussion*

**Agreed:** To strongly object to the application on the following grounds:

- 1) Over-intensive
- 2) Out of character with the surrounding area,
- 3) Would lead to increased traffic in nearby roads
- 4) There is no business need for this development as there are already a number of properties unable to be sold in Filton at present
- 5) Filton Town Council also reiterates its policy of objecting to local family homes being converted into flats
- 6) A site visit is strongly recommended.

**ii) Section 106 public open space request: Agreed:** to confirm that it would not be appropriate to comment as this Council strongly objects to the planning application concerned.

**There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:45 pm**