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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
ENVIRONMENT AND AMENITY COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
ON TUESDAY 2 DECEMBER 2014 at 8.00 PM

Present: Cllr Edmunds – In the Chair David Allison – Clerk to the Council

Cllrs Bennett, Brading, Dann and Getkahn.

Voting Members: 5

Not Present: Cllr Vane

Members of the Public: 0

EA1087/14 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Seeley.

EA1088/14 Declarations of Interest

The Chairman recommended that any declarations of interest be made, if necessary, throughout the meeting.

EA1089/14 Representations from the Public

There no members of the public present.

EA1090/14 Minutes

Resolved:

- That the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 4 November 2014 be approved and be signed by the Chairman.

EA1091/14 Matters Arising

EA1085/14 Budgets 2015/16. The Clerk drew Members attention to the Resolution that he would submit a budget proposal for a complete flora and fauna audit of Stones Orchard and for production of a new professional Management Plan. The Clerk stated that he had discussed the matter with a Member of the Committee and that it was the Councillors intention to submit a budget proposal for expert advice on hedgerows with an associated report. That budget proposal was received and given the other proposals for Stones Orchard, the Clerk stated that he considered that there was adequate funding for Stones Orchard at this time to develop with expert advice as needed a new Management Plan. Accordingly, the Clerk had not submitted a further budget proposal to that end.

Following a short discussion Members agreed with the approach the Clerk had taken.

EA1092/14 Works List

The Chairman introduced this item and invited comments.

It was noted that the hedge at the bottom of Baldwins Lane opposite the shops had now been cut back by a third party.

There were no other comments.

Resolved:

- That the Works List for December 2014 be noted.

EA1093/14 Stones Orchard

The Chairman introduced this item and asked the Clerk to elaborate. The Clerk advised that since the last meeting no new specific problems about the trees had been brought to his attention.

EA1094/14 Budgets 2015/16

The Chairman introduced this item and asked the Clerk to elaborate. The Clerk advised that 12 budget proposal forms had been submitted for the Environment and Amenity Committee. The Clerk advised that he had stated at the Council Meeting on Thursday 27 November that a full collated set of submissions would be circulated to all Councillors on Monday 1 December which was done and included the 12 submissions for this Committee.

The Clerk gave an overview of the individual proposals and suggested that the Committees budget be reviewed on screen so that any changes or amendments can be made immediately to see the effect of the Committees budget.

The budget review started on page 8 of the Budget Schedule version 6 dated 1 December 2014 which included all budget submissions received by the closing date.

The Clerk led Members through the figures including where as appropriate monies would be drawn from reserves on items where funding in 2014/15 was likely to be unspent and put into reserves which could then be used to fund some 2015/16 items.

There was a discussion in regard to the financial provision for the Council's annual New Years Eve firework display. It was stated that the contractor had provided exceptional value for money with no increase in costs year on year and it was considered that there should be some uplifting of the financial provision. Accordingly, the budget figure was increased to £5,000.

A discussion ensued regarding the proposal for a permanent WW1 memorial in the form of a stained glass window or doors at All Saints Church. It was considered that this was an appropriate matter to include within the budget although it was considered that the budget proposal would sit more comfortably in the budget under the Council's Grants section.

A discussion took place regarding the proposal for a WW2 VE/VJ Commemorative Service and it was noted that a working party had been set up from the Council Meeting in October to consider this matter. Accordingly, the financial provision would remain in the budget pending further information and the deliberations of the working party.

Resolved:

- That the firework display provision be increased from £4,500 to £5,000 for 2015;
- That financial provision for a WW1 memorial in the form of a stained glass window or doors at All Saints Church (£5,000) be moved to the Council's Grant section in the budget;
- That the amended E&A proposed budget of £35,310 be taken forward in the budgeting process.

EA1095/14 Closure

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.51pm.