



SHAFTESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

GENERAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of a meeting of the General Management Committee held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, High Street, Shaftesbury Dorset SP7 8LY on Tuesday 23rd September 2014 commencing at 7:00pm.

Members Present:

Cllr R Tippins (Chair)

Cllr M Hicks

Cllr P Proctor

Cllr J Pestell

Cllr M Madgwick (Vice-Chair)

Cllr J Lewer

Cllr K Tippins

Officers Present:

Richard Chapman Interim Town Clerk

Barbara Carter Project Officer

In Attendance:

4 Members of the public

MINUTES

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public were invited to make representations to the committee on any matters relating to the work of the committee or to raise any issues of concern. (Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960). The following matters were raised:

- Standing Orders: Comments were received regarding the Standing Orders which would be discussed by the Committee in Agenda Item 4.
- Precept: It was commented that any increase in precept would put up Council tax, and that Council should consider reducing and not increasing the amount the Council required.
- Auditors Correspondence: It was asked if a copy of the Confidential Minutes of 4th February 2014 could be made available. The Town Clerk replied that he would need to take advice before being able to release the document. It was also said that more questions will come out following the year end in March 2015, that would be passed to the External Auditor and that the expense to the public was warranted.
- Cllr Pestell: It was noted that Cllr Pestell had attended the meeting, but not included on the Summons. General Management Committee at their meeting on 17th June 2014 Resolved to add Cllr Pestell to the Committee, but this had not been ratified by Council. This would be included as an Agenda item for Council on 7th October 2014. Cllr Pestell was invited to take part in the meeting but would be unable to vote.

01. Apologies

There were none.

02. Declaration of Interests

Members and staff were reminded of their duty to declare any known interests in any matter to be considered. There were none declared.

03. Monument Action Plan

It was **RECOMMENDED** that the Action Plan be adopted by Council, with an amendment to the text in item 2, to read that the Project Leader would be the Town Clerk.

04. Review of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

It was **RESOLVED** to ask all Councillors to review the Draft Standing Orders and Financial Regulations and pass any comments to the Clerk, which would be collated and presented for discussion at a General Management Committee Workshop to be held on Tuesday 30th September at 6pm in the Town Hall.

05. Precept Level 2015/16

It was **RECOMMENDED** that a precept level increase for the year 2015/16 should be a maximum of the Retail Price Index level of 2.4%.

06. Auditor's Correspondence

Members received and noted the Town Clerk's report. It was **AGREED** that in 3.3 that the words 'which the auditor seems to be happy with the response made' be deleted from the Clerk's report.

07. Town Council Accounting Package

It was **RESOLVED** to purchase the 'SAGE' accounting software for the management of the Town Council's accounts. It was agreed to look into an Asset package for SAGE.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked members and public for attendance and closed the meeting at 8:58pm.