

MINEHEAD TOWN COUNCIL

FINANCE COMMITTEE

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 23rd November 2015 in the Council
Chamber, The Town Hall, The Parade, Minehead**

Present:

Cllr L Smith Chair

Cllr A Kingston-James

Cllr J Malin

Cllr J Parbrook*

Cllr R Thomas*

Cllr S Vine

(* denotes WSC Councillor, ** denotes SCC Councillor)

Cllrs in Attendance: Cllr Everett, Cllr A Parbrook, Cllr Venner

Officers in Attendance:

Town Clerk (Mrs S Sanders)

170. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Archer, Cllr Culverhouse, and Cllr Miele

171. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

<u>Member</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Time Period</u>	<u>Speak/Vote</u>	<u>Action Taken</u>	<u>Decision</u>
Cllr Thomas	All items	WSC Councillor	23.11.15	yes		Stayed in the room spoke and voted
Cllr J Parbrook	All items	WSC Councillor	23.11.15	yes		Stayed in the room spoke and voted

172. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING FOR PUBLIC INCLUSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER No. 1c

To receive written questions and addresses from members of the public

No members of the public had registered to speak.

173. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON

That the Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 7th September 2015 be agreed.

PROPOSED: Cllr J Parbrook

SECONDED: Cllr R Thomas

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on the 7th September 2015 be approved.

174. PRESENTATION BY MR K WIGGLESWORTH, CCTV CO-ORDINATOR FOR THE MINEHEAD & WATCHET CCTV PARTNERSHIP

Mr Wigglesworth will explain to the Committee how the system works, the current situation and the future of the CCTV system in Minehead.

Mr Wigglesworth was invited to attend this meeting by the Clerk to address the concerns the Committee had regarding the provision of CCTV. He then went on to speak about the history of the CCTV system in Minehead which started in 1998 and the how the system had been monitored for a short time in the attic of the Town Hall. This was not suitable so Avon & Somerset Police Authority agreed to house the CCTV system at the Minehead Police Station.

There are 19 cameras within Minehead this includes the trading estate, the harbour (which pays for itself through advertising) and they are financed with

a £3,000 contribution from the Town Council and a £2,500 contribution from WSC who also pay the Co-ordinator's salary. The CCTV Partnership has now been extended to include Watchet who have had 11 new cameras installed 17 months ago.

There is a 70% hit rate in Minehead and the CCTV system has become an invaluable tool for the Police. A team of 8 volunteers staff the CCTV office every Saturday night if possible.

This year has seen a heavy demand on the limited finances of the CCTV finances for Minehead. A camera has had to be moved and relocated at a cost of £6,000 from the 'Aquasplash land' now sold to Lidl's. One of the busiest cameras is having to be repaired constantly and the busiest camera on the sea front is experiencing major difficulties. An invoice for the fibre optic broadband is due in the next few months with the Budget for this year already over spent by at least £3,500.

Mr Wigglesworth explained that there is no contingency fund for unexpected expenditure but this would be looked at in the future by the team at Taunton Deane.

Mr Wigglesworth then answered a number of questions from Committee members including: Cllr Venner who asked if the cameras reduced anti-social behaviour? Cllr Vine asked how the relocation of a camera totalled £6,000. Cllr Malin asked what the businesses in the town contribute.

After all questions had been answered Mr Wigglesworth asked if the Council would be minded to contribute a 'one off payment' of £3,800 for a new camera and significant repairs to another.

After Councillors had asked questions and there was no further information needed the Committee agreed the following recommendation to Full Council.

PROPOSED: Cllr J Parbrook

SECONDED: Cllr R Thomas

Recommendation: that the Finance Committee recommend that Full Council considers a ‘one off’ payment to the Minehead CCTV system of £3,800 in total for a new camera and significant repairs to another.

175. FINANCIAL REPORT

- (i) Income and Expenditure Report up to 16 November 2015 (Paper copy to be handed out at the meeting).

To include a verbal general update on financial matters up to 16 November 2015.

- (ii) New pension regulations from 1 June 2016 – explanation of new procedures and contributions.

(i) The Clerk appraised the Committee of the financial position for the last three months including a visit from the Internal Auditor carrying out the Interim Audit for the year 2015/16. He had advised that when the money was received from the sale of the Market House that it must be ring-fenced so that it could only be used for capital works or the financing of new premises. The only major expenditure had been the purchase of a new Stiga Mower that was needed for the amount of grass now cut which replaced an earlier model.

(ii) The Clerk informed the Committee that changes would be made to National Insurance and final salary pensions in the New Year. Employers will lose a 3.4% NI rebate when the pension fund ‘contracting out’ arrangements cease in April 2016 which will impact on their ability to fund any pay deal. Similarly, individuals will lose a 1.4% rebate. This will impact on a number of employees of the Town Council.

There being no questions on the changes to the National Insurance system the Chair asked for the Committee to note the financial report.

Recommendation: Councillors all agree to note the Financial Report.

176. APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT FUNDING

(i) Exmoor Festival

Councillor discussed the merits of the above festival at length but decided not to give the grant in this instance.

A vote was taken with all but one Councillor supporting the decision.

(ii) Somerset County Council – contribution towards the replacement of two trees in The Parade – one outside Argos and the other outside the Town Hall.

This is a unique request as the trees in The Avenue and The Parade are owned and maintained by Somerset County Council. Two trees need replanting in The Parade after they were removed for safety reasons. It was explained to the Committee that Somerset County Council are asking the Town Council to work in partnership with them.

After a short discussion about the financial costs of the trees it was decided that the County Council be informed that the Town Council are willing to contribute the price of the trees which would cost around £280.00 plus VAT.

Recommendation: That the Finance Committee agree to the funding of £280.00 plus VAT for two trees to be planted by Somerset County Council.

PROPOSED: Cllr J Parbrook

SECONDED: Cllr R Thomas

Resolved: that the Finance Committee agree to the funding of two replacement trees at a cost of £280.00 plus VAT

177. REQUEST FROM THE MINEHEAD INFORMATION CENTRE FOR PART FUNDING OF THE TOURISM SERVICES FOR THE YEAR 2015 – 2016.

The application is for residue funding from the Additional Services Budget Code of £4,315.

This item was debated at the Finance Committee Meeting on 29 June 2015 and after discussion by the Committee it was agreed that financial information should be supplied before a decision could be made.

Mr Graham Sizer of the Minehead Development Trust had kindly supplied financial details of the Minehead Information Centre up to September 2014. Various questions were asked by Committee members with Cllr Venner telling the history of the Tourism Office in the centre of Minehead. Cllr Jean Parbrook spoke of the large part the Internet now plays in the dissemination of information which is changing the face of tourism services in general. With Mr Sizer present it was decided to suspend Standing Orders so that they could hear more about the Minehead Information Centre.

Standing Orders suspended:

PROPOSED: Cllr Smith

SECONDED: Cllr Vine

Mr Sizer then answered questions from the Committee about the general running of the Minehead Information Centre.

Standing Orders reinstated:

PROPOSED: Cllr Smith

SECONDED: Cllr Thomas

After questions from the Finance Committee Cllr Parbrook recommended that £4,000 should be contributed to the running of the Minehead Information Centre subject to Full Council approval. The Committee then agreed on a recommendation to Full Council that was proposed by:

PROPOSED: Cllr Parbrook

SECONDED: Cllr Thomas

Recommendation: That the Finance Committee recommend to Full Council that the sum of £4,000 be granted to the Minehead Information Centre for the year 2015/16.

This was agreed by most members with one abstention.

The Meeting closed at 8.50 pm