



MINUTES OF RYDE TOWN COUNCIL'S FINANCE AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES COMMITTEE
HELD ON TUESDAY, 12 MARCH 2024 AT 7.00PM
IN RYDE BAPTIST CHURCH, GEORGE STREET

Members Present: Cllr Jess Higgins, Cllr Richard May, Cllr Malcolm Ross, Cllr Phil Jordan (Chair), Cllr Diana Conyers

Also in Attendance: Tara Bloomfield (Responsible Financial Officer), Robert Clark (Finance Assistant)

Members of the Public - 4

PUBLIC & MEMBERS QUESTIONS

Due to the upcoming by-election for the Ryde Appley and Elmfield Ward on Thursday 21st March 2024 and the need to observe the pre-election period regulations, there was not allotted time for members or public questions.

116/23 APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Cllr Cooke who substituted Cllr Conyers in his place and from Cllr Lilley.

117/23 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTEREST

None declared.

118/23 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None requested.

119/23 MINUTES

The minutes to the previous meetings held on 23 January 2024 were reviewed.

RESOLVED:

THAT, the minutes to the meetings held on 23 January 2024 were approved and were signed off by the Chair.

120/23 LIST OF PAYMENTS

The list of payments for 01/01/2024-31/01/2024 were presented and approved.

121/23 BANK RECONCILIATION

The bank reconciliations for the period ending 31 January 2024, was presented and approved.

122/23 RISK ASSESMENT REGISTER

The committee were asked to review and recommend to Full Council the updated risk assessment register. The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) explained that the only change in the register was the added risk of Members Acting Outside the scope of their role.

RESOLVED:

THAT, the risk assessment register be recommended to Full Council.

123/23 ST THOMAS' CAPITAL SPEND

Members were asked to review and approve proposed spend from the capital ear marked reserve for St Thomas' Church. The RFO explained that when the council purchased the building, additional funds were borrowed for capital works on the building.

The below list of expenditure was presented:

| Item | Details | Estimated Cost |
|---|---|-------------------|
| Lightning Protection | This will secure the building and inhabitants from being struck by lightning, which is an increased risk with a tall building. | £7,395 |
| Front Wall Repair | The wall running along west side of the building is structurally unsafe and is a risk to both the public and the homeowners at the rear of the building. This needs to be rebuilt once full planning permission is granted. | £7,735 |
| Catacombs Cover | A steel plate is required to make the entrance to the Catacombs safe. | £850 |
| External Window Repairs | Due to the age of the building a number of the external window frames are corroding and need to be repaired. | £1,000 |
| Electrical Works to St Thomas' Rest Gardens | Electrical supply points are to be installed in the rest gardens which will allow the council to hold markets and events in the area. | £4,225.30 |
| Side Wall Repairs | The south side of the main building wall requires some repointing works to protect the building | £1,041 |
| Gates & Railings | Due to the repair of the wall, new railings and gates are required. | £3,500 |
| Total | | £25,746.30 |
| Balance Remaining in Capital Fund | | £45,809.93 |

RESOLVED:

THAT, the above expenditure was approved.

124/23 NATWEST BORROWING FACILITY

The RFO informed the committee that the borrowing facility for the purchase of the former NatWest Bank Building has been approved for up to £466,000.

125/23 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

In view of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed and the public and press were excluded for the following item:

126/23 RECCOMENDATION FROM THE COMMUNITY PROJECTS TASK FORCE

The committee were presented with a recommendation from the Community Projects Task Force to reject a proposed commercial contract.

RESOLVED:

THAT, the recommendation from the Community Projects Task Force was agreed and will be recommended to Full Council for a final decision.

127/23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED:

THAT the proposed next scheduled meeting will be held on Tuesday 23 April 2024 in the Ryde Baptist Church, George Street, at 7pm.