

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26TH OCTOBER 2016
AT 7.30PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GREENACRE CENTRE, STOTFOLD**

Committee Members present: A Cooper (Chairman)

Mrs S Bundock
Mrs M Cooper
B Saunders

B Collier
S Hayes

Also present: the Town Clerk

39/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs Hyde.

40/16 DISCLOSURES OF MEMBERS INTERESTS ON MATTERS CONTAINED IN THE AGENDA

Councillors Collier, Mrs Bundock and Saunders declared an interest in agenda item 5, consideration of a grant application from the Roecroft Centre Charitable Trust. Members were reminded that if at any time during the meeting they feel they have an interest in an item being discussed, they should declare it at that point.

41/16 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES

There were none.

42/16 CLERK'S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED & MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION

Nothing to report.

43/16 GRANT APPLICATIONS & FEEDBACK FORMS RECEIVED

Members noted the grant feedback forms received for grants awarded at the April meeting:

Feedback responses received

- 1st Stotfold Scout Group, £1,082 towards equipment for expeditions – tents and compasses
- Whitbread Wanderbus, £1,500 towards capital costs of operating new community transport bus – installation of new ticket machines

Copies of the above feedback forms were previously circulated to Members.

Members considered new applications for funding (budget available for all grants £5,568).

Grants are awarded where the money is to be used for the direct benefit of the area, or part of it, or all or some of its inhabitants, and benefit obtained must be commensurate with the expenditure incurred. The decision of whether benefit would be in the interest of the area, or its inhabitants, and whether it would be commensurate with the expenditure incurred is made by the Council. Grants are awarded at the Council's discretion.

As three Members had declared an interest in the grant application from the Roecroft Centre Charitable Trust, the meeting was inquorate for consideration of this particular application. Therefore, consideration of the Roecroft Centre Charitable Trust application will be taken to the November Council meeting.

RECOMMENDED that the following grants are approved:

| Organisation | Purpose of Grant | Amount Awarded |
|------------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| St Mary's School Association | Towards playground regeneration project. To be used to fix the decommissioned trim trail in the playground – new safety matting, two new sections of trim trail and replace rotten and broken parts (LG (M.P.) Act 1976 s19) | £1,500 |
| Revitalise Respite Holidays | To provide three, one week breaks for disabled guests and their carers from Stotfold over the next 12 months (LGA 1972 s137) | £750 |
| Poppy Appeal | Poppy wreaths for Remembrance Sunday (LGA 1972 s137) | £175 |

With regard to the grant application from Stotfold Junior Football Club to purchase replacement goals for Hitchin Road Recreation Ground and a new line marker, it was:

RECOMMENDED that the Recreation Grounds, Public Lands & Lighting Committee will consider the purchase of a replacement set of goals for Hitchin Road Recreation Ground, as these would replace the existing Town Council owned goals. We question where the line marker is to be used as, similarly, if it is to replace the Town Council owned line marker at Hitchin Road Recreation Ground, then its replacement will be considered by Committee. If it is to be used on another recreation area, then it is recommended that the requested sum of £315 is granted to purchase a new line marker.

RECOMMENDED that subject to approval of the above grants, the sum of £925 is vired from the grants budget to the Section 137 budget to cover grants awarded under Section 137 powers.

44/16 STAFF TRAINING

Members considered authorising the Assistant Clerk's attendance at the SLCC's training on Agendas & Minutes being held on 23rd November 2016 at Ollerton, near Worksop. Cost £125 plus vat, plus mileage and overnight accommodation at a Premier Inn on 22nd £39.

RESOLVED that the Assistant Clerk is authorised to attend the SLCC's training on Agendas & Minutes on 23rd November at £125 plus vat, plus mileage, plus overnight accommodation £39.

45/16 LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE SETTLEMENT TECHNICAL CONSULTATION

Members considered making a response to the Government's consultation on the 2917/2018 Local Government Finance Settlement, deadline 28th October 2016. Delegated power has been given to this Committee to respond on behalf of the Town Council. A copy of the consultation paper, together with an update from the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and a suggested letter template was previously circulated to Members.

The proposal which would affect Town and Parish Councils:

'Referendum principles are introduced for Town and Parish Councils whose Band D Precept is higher than that of the lowest charging district council for 2017/2017 (£75.46), and which have a total Precept for 2016/2017 of at least £500,000, while taking into account of transfers of responsibilities, and that consideration is given to the extension of referendums to all local Precepting authorities'.

'These parishes would face the same referendum principles as shire districts: increases of less than 2% or up to and including £5 (whichever is higher) can be set without triggering a referendum.'

Members discussed the consultation paper, in particular in relation to section 3.3.5 (i) which refers to transfer of responsibilities from a District Council to a Town or Parish Council and that these Councils will not be subject to referendum principles where they take on new responsibilities from the District Council. This clause should be extended to include existing responsibilities taken on by the Town or Parish Council on behalf of the principal authority.

A query was raised over reference to the lowest charging District Council's Band D of £75.46. A Member had investigated this and could not find one this low, the lowest being Westminster at £669.

It was also noted that our Council, and likely others, have had to raise their Precept to take into account the loss of the Council Tax Support Grant figures which were previously included.

RESOLVED that the template letter provided by NALC is used to send our objections to the proposals, a copy of which can be found on file. The letter is to be sent to our MP Alistair Burt and as our response to the Department of Communities and Local Government direct, with the addition of the above three points.

46/16 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES, RELEVANT TO THIS COMMITTEE ONLY

There were none.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.04pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED