#### MINUTES OF FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON <u>13 JANUARY 2015 AT THE OFFICES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL,</u> <u>THE OLD COURT HOUSE, SAFFRON ROAD BIGGLESWADE</u>

# Present:

Cllr M North (Chairman) Cllr D Albone Cllr I Bond Cllr Mrs M Russell Rob McGregor – Town Clerk Mike Thorn – Deputy Town Clerk Angela Thomas – Meeting Clerk

Also present: Cllr P Biernis, Cllr B Briars and Cllr G Wilson

# 1. APOLOGIES

Cllr Mrs. W Smith Cllr B Rix Cllr T Woodward Cllr S Watkins

# 2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

To receive Statutory Declarations of Interests from Members in relation to:

- (a) Disclosable Pecuniary interests in any agenda item None declared.
- (b) Pecuniary interests in any agenda item None declared.

### 3. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

There were no members of the public present.

#### 4. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

Members received and approved the minutes of the F&GP meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2014.

# 5. MATTERS ARISING

There were no Matters Arising.

#### 6. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

#### a. <u>Grants/Donations</u>

i. For members to consider applications for Community Grants. A schedule and copies of grant applications were circulated with this Agenda.

Members considered the applications for Community Grants and the results are as follows:

| Organisation            | Amount<br>Requested<br>£   | 2014<br>Grant<br>£ | 2015<br>Grant Agreed<br>£ | Comments   | Power |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|--|-------|
| Biggleswade<br>Sports   | Grateful for<br>any amount | 410.00             | 410.00                    |  | s137  |
| Crab Lane<br>Embankment | 50.00                      | 50.00              | 50.00                     | Cllr Mrs M Russell<br>agreed to this amount.<br>However, feels that<br>the Town Council<br>should take over in<br>the future | s137  |

| Biggleswade<br>First Aid Club                 | 370.00                     | 360.00   | 370.00 | Agreed   | s137             |
|---|----------------------------|----------|--------|--|------------------|
| Mid Beds CAB                                  | 1,000.00                   | Nil      | 200.00 | Grants received from CBC   | s137             |
| Biggleswade<br>Army Cadets                    | 1,200.00                   | 450.00   | 900.00 |  | LGMP s19         |
| Biggleswade<br>History Society                | 600.00                     | 600.00   | 600.00 |  | s137             |
| Link a Ride                                   | Grateful for<br>any amount | 500.00   | 500.00 |  | LGRA sect<br>27  |
| Biggles FM                                    | 1,850.00                   | 500.00   | 900.00 |  | s137             |
| Biggleswade<br>Town Cricket                   | 2,000.00                   | 500.00   | 900.00 |  | s137             |
| Abbotsbury                                    | 400.00                     | 250.00   | 400.00 |  | s137             |
| Keech Hospice                                 | 500.00                     | 500.00   | 500.00 |  | s137             |
| Mayflower<br>Social Club                      | 300.00                     | 200.00   | 300.00 |  | s137             |
| Biggleswade<br>Talking Paper                  | 400.00                     | 350.00   | 400.00 |  | s137             |
| New Horizon<br>Club                           | 250.00                     | 200.00   | 250.00 |  | s137             |
| Biggleswade<br>Sea Cadets                     | 1,000.00                   | 450.00   | 900.00 |  | s137             |
| The Avenue for Autism                         | 350.00                     | 300.00   | 350.00 |  | s137             |
| Trinity Methodist<br>Church                   | Grateful for<br>any amount | 1,000.00 | 500.00 |  | s137             |
| Biggleswade<br>Girl Guides<br>"District"      | 300.00                     | 250.00   | 350.00 |  | s137             |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Biggleswade<br>Rainbow Guides | 250.00                     | Nil      | Nil    | The Committee<br>agreed that monies go<br>direct to "District" for<br>them to allocate | s137             |
| Biggleswade<br>Youth FC                       | 350.00                     | 250.00   | 350.00 |  | s137             |
| Eyeworth<br>Village Hall                      | 2,000.00                   | Nil      | Nil    | The Committee<br>agreed this did not<br>come within our area                           | LGA 1972<br>s177 |
|   |                            | TOTAL    | 9,130  |  |                  |

The Committee **<u>RECOMMENDED</u>** that the 2015 Grant allocation be put forward to the next Council Meeting for approval.

**ii.** Biggleswade Town Cricket Club are asking Council to sponsor match balls as in previous years at a cost of £10 per game. Member's views on this matter would be appreciated.

The Committee  $\underline{\textbf{RECOMMENDED}}$  to sponsor five match balls at a cost of £10 per game.

iii. Bedford College have asked if the Town Council would once again sponsor one of the student awards for the 2015 event which will take place on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at Bedford Corn Exchange. A key part of the event is the sponsorship awards by local businesses and organisations and each student nominated for an award will receive a gift voucher or prize.

The Committee **<u>RECOMMENDED</u>** to allocate £50 to sponsor a student awards.

### b. Fees for 2015/2016

A copy of the current fees were attached to this agenda and members were asked to consider the fees for 2015 – 2016.

The Committee <u>**RECOMMENDED**</u> not to make any amendments to the fees 2015/2016 apart from increasing the following:

| Benches:             | £750.00 | (was £535.00) |
|----------------------|---------|---------------|
| Benches with Plaque: | £820.00 | (was £605.00) |

### c. Budgets

To consider budgets for 2015 - 2016. Paperwork will be handed out at the meeting for Member to consider.

Cllr M North – since the original budget papers have been circulated, we have received confirmation of the council tax base for 2015/16. This shows an increase in band D equivalent properties of 182 or 3.20%. Taking advantage of this and applying an increase in band D equivalent precept of 1.98, the precept recommended has been increased by £29,500 from the preliminary proposals (a total increase of £34,967 or 5.24% over 2014/15).

Following a review this morning, the following budgets have been increased; Admin, car park rates, play equipment, litter bins, central services, outside services, grants and an increased rolling capital fund.

Cllr Mrs M Russell – I had a long conversation with the Town Clerk earlier today regarding budgets, I proposed to recommend the budget to Council subject to an amendment on 4039/212 play equipment maintenance, reducing the budget by £1,000 and placing the £1,000 in 4061/108 grants.

Members <u>**RECOMMENDED</u>** subject to the amendment that the draft budget goes forward to Town Council with a precept of £702,469, a 1.98% increase in Band D equivalent to £119.59 a year.</u>

#### d. Model Financial Regulations – 3<sup>rd</sup> Draft

Members were asked to consider the above document which was attached to this agenda.

Members **<u>RECOMMENDED</u>** that the Draft Financial regulations go forward to the Town Council for approval.

### 7. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

There were no members of the public present.