

6. BUDGET FOR 2005/6

This item might have been affected by decisions made on grant applications and therefore was to be considered after item 10.

7. EXTERNAL AUDIT

The Council has received a clean Audit.

RESOLVED: that the RFO is thanked for his efforts in obtaining a satisfactory result.

8. LETTERS OF THANKS FOR DONATIONS

8.1 VJ Cup

RESOLVED: that their accounts for last year be received.

8.2 Sandbach Voices

RESOLVED: that their letter be received.

8.3 CCC – Allan Bell, Acting County Librarian and Information Officer

RESOLVED: that his letter be received.

8.4 Wheelock Community Association

RESOLVED: that their letter of thanks for a donation to their summer fete be received.

9. APPLICATIONS FOR DONATIONS

9.1 Sandbach Literary Institution

Cllr Moore declared an interest as a trustee and left the room.

The Chairman read out the application form presented to the previous meeting in which they sought a grant of £69,735 to match a grant of £52,024 already awarded by the CBC HERS fund. The project cost was quoted as £143,067. Quantity Surveyor's figures dated March 2001 amounting to £96,253 had been provided by the Trustees.

A working group authorised by the Quality Committee had been investigating the feasibility of suitable accommodation at the Literary Institution. The talks with the Trustees had been very productive, although no commitment had been or could be made until the Council gave its approval. The question of what legal advice had been obtained was raised. The committee were requested to approve the project in principle to allow negotiations to continue. It was expected that sufficient information would be received from the Trustees to allow the Town Council to make a firm decision in December.

RESOLVED: that in principle a grant should be made which would be linked to the provision of accommodation for the Council within the building and would be subject to the confirmation of the viability of the project.

RESOLVED: that a report from the working group is presented to the Town Council meeting on 9 December clearly identifying the salient points.

9.2 Sandbach United Football Club

It was felt that the following statement in their correspondence was the key.

In retrospect, we put the cart before the horse, by not costing the project fully before applying for planning.

RESOLVED: that a reply is sent agreeing with the above sentiment and stating that when they have prepared their detailed estimate the Council will welcome another submission.

9.3 Sandbach School Sixth Form

Cllrs Price and Lloyd-Griffiths declared an interest as governors.

They applied for £200 towards the cost of providing a Christmas meal for OAPs.

RESOLVED: that a donation of £200 is given.

9.4 Sandbach Voices

They applied for a grant of £1,000 towards £3,000 needed for a portable electronic organ.

RESOLVED: that a grant of £1,000 is made.

9.5 Wheelock Primary School

They ask for a grant of £10,000 towards £40,000 needed for an improved play area. Contrary to the statement on the form they had received a grant of £2,000 from the Town Council in March 2000 for an "Infant Log Area".

RESOLVED: that they are asked for a detailed estimate and breakdown of costs so that the application can be reconsidered at the next Finance Meeting.

9.6 North West Air Ambulance

They seek a donation towards a new £500,000 helicopter. An application form has been sent.

RESOLVED: that no action is taken until a completed application form is received.

9.7 CBC – Streetscape and Christmas Lights

Mr Steve Jones invites the Council to make a voluntary donation towards the Borough Council's costs for helping the Sandbach Lights Committee.

RESOLVED: that no donation is made.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

10.1 Cheshire Partnership

Awards of up to £5k are available to any organisation or partnership operating within the administrative area of Cheshire County Council to help further develop or enhance a currently successful partnership project or support its application in other parts of the county.

RESOLVED: that the information is received.

6. BUDGET FOR 2005/6

A draft budget was presented to the meeting by the Clerk. He proposed that a precept of £82,220 was set. This represents an increase of 3% on the previous year when there had been no increase.

Members required that the annual grant for the Transport Festival was restored. Otherwise the draft budget was accepted.

RESOLVED: that the Council is recommended to set a precept of £82,220.

RESOLVED: that the budget as attached to these minutes is recommended for acceptance by the Town Council.

11. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: that the next Finance Committee Meeting will be the budget setting meeting and will take place on 6 January 2005 at the Mayor's Room, Westfields.

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm.

M R Sherman
Chairman

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