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**LEWES  
TOWN  
COUNCIL**

## ***MINUTES***

of the meeting of the **Finance Review Working Party**

held on **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2013**, in the **Yarrow Room, Town Hall, Lewes** at **6:30pm**.

**PRESENT** Cllrs J Daly; I Eiloart; S Murray; R O’Keeffe; R Rudkin, and Dr M Turner (*Chairman*)

*In attendance:* S Brigden (*Town Clerk [TC]*)

**FWP2013/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Apologies were accepted from Cllr Chartier, who had a charity commitment. No message had been received from Cllr Dean.

**FWP2013/02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** There were none.

**FWP2013/03 QUESTIONS:** There were none (No public or press were present).

**FWP2013/04 REMIT OF THE WORKING PARTY:**

Council had considered a proposal that it should formalize an annual plan for projects and activities, which would then inform the budget process. It had been suggested that progress could then be monitored in a similar way to the “traffic-light” system employed by the District and County Councils. It had been noted that the Council’s current budgeting process took full account of all known and anticipated projects and demands upon resources, and simply stopped-short of publishing a separate listing in the form of a plan. Progress on activities was reported to Council as appropriate at each meeting. There was resistance to the idea of introducing additional bureaucracy, or systems better-suited to the larger organizations of the principal councils, and members had recognized the extra burden on resources that this would represent.

The Working Party was asked to discuss the creation of an annual Council Plan starting with one for 2014-15, for presentation to Council.

**FWP2013/05 BUSINESS OF THE MEETING:**

A table showing the current status of all approved projects and financial reserves was considered the appropriate starting-point for the formalization of a plan. A draft Plan (*copy in minute book*), highlighted (in “headline” form) the major project areas to which Council had already committed, and summarized ongoing priorities such as appropriate maintenance or conservation of assets. This was a comprehensive programme.

Members mentioned some additional projects which they wished to promote, and it was agreed that these all fitted within the main headings of the draft plan, and should be brought forward for decisions in the normal way; via Council or an appropriate Working Party. There was a general discussion on the principles and it was agreed that a short explanatory paragraph for each heading would serve as an appropriate description of the Council’s intentions and give a framework against which progress could be compared.

**FWP2013/06 RECOMMENDATIONS/CONCLUSIONS**

It was agreed that the draft plan discussed at the meeting be recommended to Council, allowing any financial implications to be accommodated in the imminent budget review for 2014/15.

**FWP2013/07** The Chairman thanked everyone for their contribution and declared the meeting closed.

*The meeting closed at 7:20pm*

Signed: .....

Date: .....



Lewes Town Council proposes to initiate or continue the following major areas of work in the year 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015. These are in addition to various projects and initiatives itemised in the Council's budgets and accounts, and represent larger-scale activities deserving special attention.

**Town Hall repairs & conservation**

Major refurbishment of South (High Street) elevation

**All Saints Centre lighting upgrade**

Replacement (updating) of stage lighting and sound equipment

**Pells Lake ecology project**

Reinstatement of safe habitats for fish fry and invertebrates

Improvements to water quality

Introduction of aquatic plants

**Pells Recreation Ground and kiosk/café development (with Santon Group and others)**

Engagement with Santon Group and others to improve the "urban realm" in the area as an integral component of necessary flood-defence works; taking the opportunity to replace children's play equipment and introduce equipment for a wider age-range, and to provide an enhanced café facility for the swimming pool, recreation ground, and surrounding parkland.

**Malling (Bridgeview) Community Centre refurbishment**

To carry out a comprehensive refurbishment of the community centre, with modern heating and lighting, with improved facilities for community use, including more flexible interior spaces and better integration of the sports changing-rooms with the adjoining sports pitches and recreation ground.

**Commemorations:**

To engage with, and inspire, appropriate community recognition of

The Battle of Lewes (750<sup>th</sup> anniversary 2104)

National commemoration of the Centenary of the outbreak of the first World War (2014)

National commemoration of the signing of Magna Carta (2015)

**Neighbourhood Plan (with Community partners)**

Development of a Neighbourhood Plan for Lewes under provisions of the Localism Act 2011

**Continuing programme of environmental enhancements and specific site improvements**

Engage with appropriate projects arising from third-party initiatives (*eg* highway safety/traffic management). Continuing improvements to own assets (*eg* allotment sites)

**Devolution of assets & services**

Provide for transfer of ownership of various assets/services from Lewes District Council. (currently subject to ongoing negotiation)