

**MINUTES**  
**GENERAL PURPOSES AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

17 JUNE 2008

**PRESENT**

Councillor C Horton (In the Chair)

Councillor:                    R Haines  
                                      R Scotchmer  
                                      J Toll  
                                      T Toso  
                                      (Mrs) L Vardy  
                                      (Mrs) P Webster  
                                      S Weisinger

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Mrs Alison Durrant (Fair Trade) and Mr R Gillespie.

**ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

1.            Resolved by Councillor R Haines and seconded by Councillor T Toso to elect Councillor C Horton as chairman of the General Purposes and Finance Committee. Carried unanimously. Councillor C Horton was duly appointed and took the Chair.

**APOLOGIES**

2.            Councillors S Benson, (Mrs) M F A Duff, G Edwards, (Mrs) A H Livall, A Peake and C Seal.

G2.

## **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

3. Resolved by Councillor T Toso and seconded by Councillor R Scotchmer to elect Councillor S Benson as Vice-Chairman of the General Purposes and Finance Committee. Carried unanimously. Councillor S Benson was duly appointed.

## **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

4. None.

## **HIGHWORTH MARKET**

5. a. Correspondence. None.

b. Market Manager's Report. None.

c. Market Accounts. The accounts listed on page G5 were agreed.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

6. a. Warneford School Pupils – Meeting with Michael Wills MP. Letter from Michael Wills commenting on the aspirations of the Warneford pupils and their suggestions for more inclusive youth activities in the town.

Councillors

asked for a reply to be sent to Michael Wills asking him to actively intervene with Swindon Borough Council to become more active in their youth provision.

## **RE-ADOPTION OF STANDING ORDERS**

7. Resolved by Councillor S Weisinger and seconded by Councillor (Mrs) L Vardy to re-adopt the Standing Orders currently in use. Carried unanimously. Standing Orders were duly re-adopted.

## **RE-ADOPTION OF NEW MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT**

8. Resolved by Councillor S Weisinger and seconded by Councillor (Mrs) L Vardy to re-adopt the Local Authorities Model Code of Conduct as set out in Order 2007 No. 1159, currently in use. Carried unanimously. The New Model Code of Conduct 2007 was duly re-adopted.

## **RE-ADOPTION OF FINANCIAL STANDING ORDERS**

9. Resolved by Councillor S Weisinger and seconded by Councillor (Mrs) L Vardy to re-adopt Financial Standing Orders currently in use. Carried unanimously. Financial Standing Orders were duly re-adopted.

## **ADOPTION OF FINANCIAL RISK ASSESSMENT**

10. Resolved by Councillor S Weisinger and seconded by Councillor (Mrs) L Vardy to re-adopt Financial Risk Assessment currently in use. Carried unanimously. The Financial Risk Assessment was duly re-adopted.

G3.

#### **RE-APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR**

11. Resolved by Councillor S Weisinger and seconded by Councillor (Mrs) L Vardy to re-appoint Auditing Solutions Ltd as Internal Auditor to Highworth Town Council. Carried unanimously. Auditing Solutions Ltd was duly re-appointed as Internal Auditor to Highworth Town Council.

#### **ACCEPTANCE OF INTERNAL AUDITOR' S REPORT**

12. Resolved by Councillor S Weisinger and seconded by Councillor (Mrs) L Vardy to accept the internal auditor's report on the accounts for the year 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007, attached. Carried Unanimously. The Internal Auditor's report was duly accepted.

#### **ACCEPTANCE OF ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND ANNUAL RETURN**

13. Resolved by Councillor S Weisinger and seconded by Councillor (Mrs) L Vardy to accept the Annual Accounts and Annual Return for the year 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008, attached. Carried unanimously. The Annual Accounts and Annual Statement were duly accepted.

#### **FAIR TRADE**

14. It was agreed that the Council would accept a resolution for the next Full Council Meeting to have Highworth classified as a "Fair Trade" town.

#### **SKATEBOARD PARK**

15. Resolved by Councillor S Weisinger and seconded by Councillor T Toso to offer a site at Barra Close for a skateboard park and to commence negotiations with Swindon Borough Council for permission to site it there. Voting was 7 for and 1 abstention. The resolution was duly carried.

#### **CITIZEN OF THE YEAR – ADOPTION OF RULES**

16. Resolved by Councillor R Haines and seconded by Councillor (Mrs) L Vardy to adopt the rules for the selection procedure of the Citizen of the Year attached to these Minutes. Carried unanimously. The rules are duly adopted.

#### **HIGH STREET PARKING**

17. The Councillors agreed the proposed signage, the article for Link Magazine and the employment of a suitable person for 15 hours per week at £6.00 per hour for a three month period to monitor parking in the High Street.

#### **DATES FOR FIREWORKS AND CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

18. It was agreed that the following events will take place this year on the dates shown:

- a. Fireworks                      Friday, 7 November 2008
- b. Christmas Lights              Friday, 28 November 2008

G4.

#### **ACCOUNTS**

19. The accounts as listed on pages G5 to G10 were passed and payment of bills authorised.

- ❖ The vandalism and continuing wear of the rubber surface in the toddlers' playground at Barra Close has rendered it unfit for use. Councillors agreed that, as a matter of urgency, all necessary steps be taken to bring the surface up to standard so that the playground may be put back into use. Councillors considered two options, either to reinstate the rubber surface over newly laid tarmac or take up the existing surface and replace it with bark. Councillors were of the opinion that bark would be a more cost effective option whilst offering better safety and agreed that this option should be pursued immediately.

#### **MEMBERS BUSINESS**

20. None.

**The Meeting closed at 8.10 pm.**