MINUTES OF THE POLICY, FINANCE AND PUBLICITY COMMITTEE OF STAVELEY TOWN COUNCIL

Wednesday 16th April 2014 Commencing at 7.00 pm In The Council Chamber, Staveley Hall

Present:

Councillor A. Hill (Chair)
Councillor D. Collins (Vice-Chair)
Councillor J. Barnett
Councillor B. Dyke
Councillor H. Elliott
Councillor P. Hill (substitute for Cllr. J. Bacon)
Councillor C. Ludlow
Councillor E. Tidd

In attendance – Paul Harris – Acting Town Clerk
Ian Haddock Assistant Financial Officer
There were no Members of the Press or Public present

		ACTION
673/13	PUBLIC SESSION There were no members of the public present.	
674/13	DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS There were no declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.	
675/13	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Councillor J. Bacon - holiday	
676/13	COUNCILLORS NOT PRESENT There were no Councillors not present.	
677/13	MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE OF STAVELEY TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19 th MARCH 2014 It was noted that these Minutes had already been approved at the Ordinary Meeting of Staveley Town Council held on 8 th April 2014.	

678/13

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE OF STAVELEY TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19th MARCH 2014

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

679/13

FINANCIAL ISSUES

Staveley Hall Bowls Club had asked for a reduction in their green rent. (This matter had been referred on by the Leisure and Community Committee). Their letter cited the lack of toilet facilities and the cost of repairing the hut among other things. Members stated that the Council's staff would repair the hut and they would look at the cost of hiring a portable toilet when the cabin had gone.

Due to these factors it was

RECOMMENDED – That the green rent be reduced by 15% from the 2014/15 level. A letter of acknowledgement would be sent to the Bowls Club.

The Acting Town Clerk raised the issue of office IT. He had been obliged to purchase a new computer at a cost of £2000. Also the server in the office was not functioning properly and needed replacing. The Council needed an overhaul of its IT systems and this would cost in the region of £15,000 spread over three years. There was no need for an immediate decision but members should bear this in mind over the coming months. Regarding the missing laptop he intended to contact the Police if no progress had been made by April 24th.

It was **RECOMMENDED** – That the IT upgrade be placed on the Agenda for future meetings.

Councillor Ludlow reported on the works at Middlecroft Allotments. The Council would have to pay for the water connection and the fencing at the entrance to the site.

RECOMMENDED – That the work be carried out if a reasonable quotation was received for the fencing works.

RECOMMENDED – That 10% of the proceeds of the sale of Mastin Moor Community Centre be ring fenced for the residents of Mastin Moor and Woodthorpe.

Councillor D. Collins expressed his disappointment that the Committee had received no financial statements since

December 2013.

680/13 HEART OF STAVELEY PROJECT

Councillor Dyke stated that the Bowling Green was no longer in the plans for the garden. The Assistant Financial Officer stated he would email Ian Parkin to see if it was being considered as an option.

The Acting Town Clerk reported that he had been reading through the ERDF funding application. It would appear that the Hall and Stables would be leased to Heart of Staveley Trading Limited at a peppercorn rent. Work needed to be done to clarify the relationship between the Council and the Project and its subsidiary companies.

The ERDF funding meant it was not possible for the Council to move into the Stables so the move to 26 High Street would have to be reconsidered.

Councillor Dyke felt that it could be possible to move to the Speedwell Rooms as an interim measure.

681/13 | SPEEDWELL ROOMS PROJECT

The Assistant Financial Officer updated the meeting on the work in progress.

Councillor Ludlow stated that she would progress the line clearing in the bar and train Jake and Scott in the process. The small bar should be cleared to use as a bottle bar.

The Licensing arrangements meant that our staff could serve alcohol with the Council as Designated Premises Supervisor and Councillor Ludlow as a Personal Licence Holder.

682/13 STAVELEY MARKET

The Acting Town Clerk updated the meeting. Bernie Wainwright from Chesterfield Borough Council had emailed requesting a report which was being prepared. There was a possibility that they would ask for their grant back.

Councillor Hill reported that many of the traders had relocated to Bolsover Market.

It was noted that the unattractive facade of the Original Factory Shop was hardly conducive to footfall on the Market Place.

There were options that could be explored for instance writing to Derbyshire County Council Highways with a view to moving the market onto High Street, organising a Farmers Market or perhaps asking allotment societies to use the market to sell off surplus produce.

A Continental Market in conjunction with the Canal Festival was also a possibility.

Members felt it would be a good idea to find out what had been done to revive the fortunes of Bolsover Market.

PART II - CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

683/13 PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS ACT), 1960

RESOLVED – That in view of the fact that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the following matters, the public and representatives of the press be excluded from this meeting during the discussion thereof.

684/13 | RESTRUCTURING ISSUES

Nothing to report.