

Minutes of the **FINANCE and GENERAL PURPOSES** Committee held in the Town Hall,
The Broadway, Crowborough on Tuesday 6th September 2011 at 7.30pm

Present Councillors Paul Adams
Quentin Burch
Peter Cowie *
Elizabeth Fermor
Philip Fermor
Beverley Johnstone Vice Chairman
Kay Moss
Sandra Timms
Neil Waller * Chairman

Also present Cllr. Richard Stogdon ESCC
Philippa Hewes Town Clerk
1 member of the public

* *Denotes non attendance*

APOLOGIES

Cllr Peter Cowie due to a personal reason
Cllr Neil Waller due to a work commitment

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Quentin Burch declared a personal interest in Mediation+ as a past trustee and treasurer.

MINUTES

Minutes – 5th July 2011

6245 **RESOLVED** to confirm the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 5th July 2011.

GRANTS

Notices inviting grant applications have been displayed on the council's noticeboards and website. The return date for applications is 30th September with applications being considered at the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting 8th November.

3VA is holding a funding surgery at the Town Hall 23rd November to give help and advice on funding opportunities. Local groups and organisations can book a place to discuss specific needs with a Community Development Officer.

Members were pleased to note that the funding surgery will provide an opportunity to bring additional funds into the town. It was suggested that if the funding surgery is a success, a further event should be planned early in 2012.

Request for payment of Mediation+ grant

Mediation+ is now in operation and a request has been received for payment of the grant of £1050 awarded 2.11.10

Members would like to know more about the service following the appointment of new staff and the restructure due to funding reductions.

- 6246** **RESOLVED** to invite a representative from Mediation+ to address the Finance & General Purposes Committee on the request for their proposal for payment of the £1050 grant.

UPDATE SIGNATORIES FOR BANK ACCOUNTS

- 6247** **RESOLVED** to amend the signing mandate at Nat West, Crowborough by adding Cllr Elizabeth Fermor, Beverley Johnstone and Matthew Street to the current list of signatories comprising Cllrs Peter Cowie, Philip Fermor, George Moss, Kay Moss, Sandra Timms and Neil Waller.

REPLACEMENT OF COMPUTER SERVER

The current server is in excess of 5 years old and is very slow; there are issues with backup procedures and obtaining spares part will become increasingly difficult. A quotation of £4764 + VAT has been received from the council's computer support company, Compatibility, for a new server, software, installation and configuration. The quote includes a 50% reduction of server software due to local government status and a promotion to the end of September on the proposed server. Alternative quotations are not required as the amount falls within the requirements of the council's financial regulations.

- 6248** **RESOLVED** to accept the quotation of £4764 + VAT from the council's computer support company, Compatibility, for a new server, software, installation and configuration. The expenditure is permitted under the Local Government Act 1972 s111.

FINANCE

Management Reports to 30th June and 31st July 2011

- 6249** **RESOLVED** to adopt the Management Accounts to 30th June and 31st July 2011.

Bad debts

The bad debts outstanding as at 31st July were reviewed and noted.

URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR NOTING

There was a discussion on the process for agreeing the budget for next year and the amount of the precept. Draft budgets are considered initially by the individual committees and then reviewed by the Finance and General Purposes Committee. The final budget and precept is a full council function.

It was noted that there may be financial implications for the council associated with the disposal of Wealden District Council's assets at Pine Grove.

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm