

**Minutes of a Finance & Audit Committee meeting
held on Wednesday 28th April 2010
in the Council Chamber, the Corn Exchange, Faringdon**

PRESENT: Cllrs. S. Leniec (Chairman)
Mrs. M.J. Barker
Mrs. J. Boulton
A.V. Hickmore
A. Marsden

In Attendance: 6 Members of Public
Mrs. S. Thurston, T.I.C. Supervisor (for Min. Nos.
12/10 – 18/10)
The Town Clerk

12/10 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr. M.L.H. Wise.

13/10 Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made at this time.

14/10 Minutes of Last Meeting : 20th January 2010

The Minutes were signed as a correct record.

15/10 Public Speaking Time

All of the members of public present wished to speak in support of grant applications and it was AGREED that they could do so just prior to the discussion on their respective grant applications.

16/10 Public Question Time

No questions had been received.

17/10 2009/10 End of Year Financial Reports for the following:

- (i) Office & Establishment & Grants
- (ii) Community & Tourist Information Centre
- (iii) Direct Council Expenditure
- (iv) Summary of Council Income/Expenditure

The above financial reports were NOTED, with the following additional comments made:

- (ii) Mrs. Thurston was congratulated on the TIC figures, which were very close to budget.

that very little of the Mayor's Allowance had been
been paid to Cllr. Wise. It was AGREED that
members would pursue this with Cllr. Wise.

(iv) The Chairman stated that 2009/10 had been a tight financial year, but the use of reserves had helped. However, he warned that the Council was starting the year with lower reserves than before at £81,545, and the Finance Committee would need to continue maintaining a tight control on expenditure during 2010/11.

18/10 Community & Tourist Information Centre

Mrs. Thurston tabled a written report, which was NOTED. She was thanked for her hard work, which had resulted in a very successful year, and asked to pass on the Council's thanks to all members of the TIC staff.

19/10 Applications for Financial Assistance

The following applications were considered:

Name of Organisation	Amount and Purpose of Grant
1. Faringdon Netball Club Awarded: £1,000 towards the cost of coaching and umpiring courses.	£2,750 towards the growth of the newly formed club, including provision of equipment and training.
2. Faringdon Twinning Association Awarded: £750 towards the cost of the celebrations on their 20th anniversary. The second application was withdrawn by Mr. S.T. Evans, Chairman of the Association.	£1,000 towards cost of developing the cultural exchange between Faringdon and le Mele on the occasion of the 20 th Anniversary of their twinning. £81.53 for the purchase of new flags for the Corn Exchange.
3. Faringdon Area Project Awarded: £520.40 towards the cost of reprinting the Health Group leaflet and to fund the hiring of the Corn Exchange for monthly benefit surgeries from October 2009 – June 2010.	£500 towards the cost of hosting Action for Market Towns ó South East Market Towns Awards Day £200 towards the cost of reprinting their Health Group leaflet £320.40 to fund the hiring of the Corn Exchange for monthly Benefits Surgeries (October 2009 to June 2010). £52.87 to fund the cost of hiring the Jubilee Room on 30 th March 2010 for their AGM.
4. Oxfordshire Theatre Company Referred to Venues Committee to fund from their 'Productions' budget.	£332 towards cost of performance of Alice in Wonderland in the Corn Exchange in December 2010.
5. Faringdon Retailer Group Awarded: £1500 as requested	£1,500 towards cost of organizing Festive Faringdon.
6. Vitalise Awarded: £200	£178.25 towards cost of providing 2 care breaks and 1 volunteer week for disabled Faringdon residents.

<p>whether the applicants are attending events in Faringdon.</p>	<p>£1,000 towards cost of replacing a defibrillator based in Wantage, but which serves the Faringdon community.</p>
<p>8. Faringdon Bowling Club Application rejected on the grounds that Council has supported the Club generously in the past.</p>	<p>£2,000 towards cost of re-surfacing their main car park.</p>
<p>9. Wantage Independent Advice Centre Awarded: £500 as requested</p>	<p>£500 towards costs of providing advice to Faringdon residents.</p>
<p>10. Abingdon & Dist. Citizens Advice Bureau. Awarded: £500</p>	<p>Unspecified amount towards running costs.</p>
<p>11. ARCH (Assisted Reading for Children in Oxfordshire) Awarded: £827 as requested</p>	<p>£827 to support and expand their work in Faringdon.</p>
<p>12. ECOWEEK 2010 Deferred to obtain more information about the Ecomap.</p>	<p>£1,000 towards the cost of printing the Ecomap (approx. £1800).</p>
<p>13. Pink Pigeons Trust Deferred to obtain more information. It was NOTED that the Trust had not made a formal request for the use of the phone box to the Town Council.</p>	<p>£1,000 towards cost of transforming a phone box into a mobile phone on wheels and becoming a mobile art gallery (accompanying letter attached)</p>
<p>15. Focus on Faringdon C.I.C. on behalf of Faringdon Arts Festival 2010 Awarded: £2,000. It was AGREED that, as the Festival had already received a grant from JEFF, contrary to the Grants Criteria, the payment of £500 to JEFF for 2010/11 should be withheld.</p>	<p>£4,000 towards cost of organizing Festival (A grant of £5,000 has already been awarded by the Thriving Economies Fund but this must be match funded)</p>

20/10 Corn Exchange Security

Members were asked by the Clerk to consider the re-activation of the Corn Exchange alarm system, together with a keyholding service, on the grounds that there was a substantial amount of TIC stock now on the premises. Two estimates for alarm maintenance and four estimates for keyholding services had been received and the Clerk had summarized these. The Clerk offered to seek one further estimate for alarm maintenance and bring this matter back to the next meeting for further discussion.

21/10 Climate Change Working Party

Members were asked to consider the following two requests:

- (a) Release of £900 from the funds remaining in their 2009/10 budget, for the installation of thermostatic radiator valves in the Pump House. This work had been approved by the Venues Committee.

CARRIED to release the sum of £900 from the
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(b) To consider a request for the release of £400 from their 2010/11 budget for the replacement of 3 thermostatic radiator valves in the Council Chamber.

A question was raised as to whether this work was included within the schedule of works/specification for the refurbishment of the Corn Exchange, therefore the request was deferred for this to be clarified.

22/10 Request from Venues Committee

Platform Lift, Pump House

Venues Committee recommend that Finance Committee approves, in principle, the purchase and installation of the platform lift in the Pump House, subject to receipt by Town Council of the S.106 monies now due under the terms of the S.106 agreement drawn up in respect of the Bloor Homes Development.

It was proposed, seconded and CARRIED that approval be given for the purchase and installation of the lift, under the terms of the request.

23/10 Provision of HR Advice

Members considered two estimates for the cost of the continuing provision of HR advice, currently being provided by Peninsula Business Services, and the Clerkø Report on the matter. The Clerk explained that Peninsula Business Services had been employed for over 3 years, during which time they had provided an excellent service. Another company, who specializes in town and parish council work, had submitted a quotation which was considerably more expensive than Peninsula, who had agreed to continue at the same monthly payment as previously. The Clerk recommended, therefore, that the services of Peninsula be retained and that Council agree a contract for a further three years. It was proposed, seconded and CARRIED to agree with the Clerkø recommendation.

24/10 Date of Next Meeting

The Clerk requested a change in the date of the July meeting, as she was hoping to be on annual leave. It was proposed to move the Recreation & Open Spaces meeting from 21st July to 7th July, to which Cllr. Mrs. Boulton agreed, and to move the Finance Committee meeting to 21st July. This was AGREED.