

# Swanley Town Council

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## POLICY AND FINANCE

### MINUTES

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2019

**Present:** Chair Cllr V Southern, Cllr L Ball, Cllr C Barnes, Cllr P Darrington,  
Cllr R Morris

**Also Present:** Cllr J Barnes, Cllr T Searles, Cllr H Willingale

**Officers:** CEO - Steve Nash,  
RFO - Steve Innes,  
Park Manager Ryan Hayman  
Democratic Services Officer - Barbara Playfoot

#### PRESENTATION FROM SEVENOAKS SUNS

Two representatives from Sevenoaks SUNS gave a 10 min presentation before the meeting on their progress to date. They were encouraging input from other sporting bodies in the town. They received general support from the Councillors and some invaluable advice on how to progress with their planning application. However, several Councillors expressed concerns over road access.

#### Public Participation

None

#### APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Horwood, Cllr M Hogg

#### DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Morris as owner of Godfreys Sevenoaks Ltd as there will be occasions that STC will purchase goods from this company.

#### 10623 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

To approve as correct the Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2018

**APPROVED**

#### 10624 TO RECEIVE THE MONTHLY FINANCES

- Cllr Southern commented that the format of the reports were now easier to follow. He went on to mention that the rental cost charged for Pedham Farm were very low and suggested that this should be reviewed.
- Cllr Southern also commented on the Senior Passport for Leisure showed a reduction in usage and should be investigated. The CEO did respond by saying that we are looking at other trip providers that organise the similar events to reduce costs and that we no longer provide trips that are not fully subscribed.

- Cllr Southern noted that the Alexandra Suite is going to make an increased profit for the year 2018/19 and paints a good picture.  
Cllr Morris added that he would like a vote of thanks recorded to the Alexandra Suite manager and staff for running a positive operation.
- Cllr Southern said that the Olympic hirings were down.  
The CEO said that there was an additional hirer Sky Training and that 'We buy any Car' has extended their rental period. He went on to say that all goods and services are now being purchased through the Alexandra Suite so that cost savings can be made.  
The RFO said that it is hoped that the Olympic will break even or even make a small profit this year.
- Cllr Southern said that he was very happy with the Swanley Park accounts.
- Cllr Searles asked why there was no rent showing for SNBR, the RFO said that he is just about to invoice them. Cllr Morris added that he thought that the SNBR were billed in arrears, the RFO to check.

**RESOLVED: To accept reports A/B/C/D/E/F/G**

#### **10625 EVENT COSTS**

To note the event costs for 2018

- St Georges Day made a £340 net loss in its first year but it is hoped that this can be built on in its second year
- Swanley In Bloom made a £5700 net loss however the quality of the baskets were excellent. The CEO confirmed that the same company will be used for this year and that they had started the winter planting.
- Armed Forces Day showed a £1000 profit, the event provided all day entertainment and hope to build on this success this year.
- 1812 showed a £15,000 net loss, 2018 was the first year that the event was over two days. The weather on the Saturday was appalling which did not help with income as the expected crowds did not attend. Some contracts have been replaced e.g. Public Address and Security which will make savings for 2019 which will be a 2 day event again
- Firework night made a £3500 net loss but was a successful night in terms of excellent firework display enjoyed by Swanley residents, in fact the fireworks cost less than they did 8 years ago.
- Silent Soldier has made a stupendous display and can be enjoyed every day, the event is currently showing a £1300 surplus however it is likely that this will have to be repaid back to the Heritage Lottery fund as savings were made against the original prices quoted for the grant were overestimated.
- Light up the Town additional lights was a large contributor to the £11,600 net loss. However, the Christmas lights project is a 3 year plan and in fact no lights will need to be purchased next year.
- Christmas lunch for the Seniors was a great success and an enjoyable afternoon, thanks was given to the Officials for their help at the lunch and all that they do around the town. The event made a £270 net loss.  
Cllr Southern suggested that all the events represented good value for money and that residents benefited from this alongside visitors to the town. However additional sources of income should be sought to help provide these events.

#### **10626 SDC Local Plan – PROPOSED SUBMISSION VERSION CONSULTATION (DECEMBER 2018) AND ADDITIONAL CONSULTATIONS**

The consultation period for the local plan has now commenced and is due to conclude on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2019.

To formalise a town council response to this and Swanley Village Conservation Area Proposal

Cllr Southern pointed out the changes to the original STC response to SDC. He did suggest some minor amendments to the wording which was agreed by the committee.

Cllr Searles asked to speak on this and asked for some inclusions to be made which were not taken up. Cllr Searles asked to be allowed to vote on this and he felt this had been agreed at the last Full Council meeting. After some lengthy debate Cllr Southern suspended the meeting while the Democratic Services Officer brought in the Draft Minutes of the last Full Council. While not yet ratified Cllr Southern used these as the basis for rejecting a vote by councillors not on the Policy and Finance Committee

There were also comments within the response which included the Swanley Conservation Area consultation, the response for this will be discussed at the next Full Council on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2019

**RESOLVED – Agreed response to be sent to SDC with amendments**

- **Date of next meeting – 20<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

**MEETING CLOSED AT 21.50**

If you would like further information on any of the agenda items, please contact Mr Steve Nash, on 01322 611663 or [snash@swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:snash@swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk)

Committee Members:

(Chair) Cllr M Horwood, (Vice Chair) Cllr V Southern, Cllr L Ball, Cllr C Barnes, Cllr P Darrington, Cllr M Hogg, Cllr R Morris