



FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday 8th April 2014 at 7.00pm
The Studio, Haverhill Arts Centre, High Street

Present: **Chair: Town Councillor: R André**
 Town Councillors: P Hanlon, B McLatchy, B Robbins
 G Stroud and C Turner

Officers: **Bob Whittome**
 Colin Schraeder-Bidwell

6 members of the public were present

MINUTES

1. **Apologies for Absence**
 Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Byrne.
2. **Declarations of Interest**
 No Members declared an interest in items on the agenda.
3. **Minutes of the Last Meeting held 11th February 2014**
 The minutes of the meeting held 10th December 2013 were agreed as a true record.
4. **Matters Arising**
 No matters arising from the previous minutes were raised.
5. **Current Financial Position**
 Committee noted the financial position as at 28th February 2014. Members also thanked Colin Schraeder-Bidwell for his work on the accounts, and directed the Clerk to arrange for a note of thanks to go to the staff of Hartseats for their work in moving that operation into surplus. The Clerk was also requested to organise a members' briefing on the Magistrates' Court project so as to bring all Members of Council to an understanding of this long running project.
6. **To Agree the Year End Transfers for 2014/2015 and make appropriate recommendations to Council**
 Committee considered the revised transfers between earmarked funds, most of which had already been approved as part of the budget process and unanimously approved the transfers (attached) to be recommended to Council.

Action

7. **To Receive a Report on the Christmas Lights' Contract**

The Locum Clerk reported that the existing contractor had agreed to extend the contract to include the 2014/15 season, and that the arrangement would give a similar standard of display as for last year but working within the constraints of the reduced 2014/15 budget. It was understood this would be achieved by reduced pre-season maintenance. Committee noted and approved the proposal and resolved to use the small projected underspend as a contingency against equipment repairs. Committee also directed the Clerk to provide Members with a copy of the Service Level Agreement.

CLERK

8. **To Agree a Programme for the Annual Meeting and Celebration of the 25th Year of Council**

Committee resolved to combine the Annual Town Meeting on 27th May with a celebration of its 25th Anniversary and approved extraordinary expenditure of £1,000 (at maximum) for this event. Long serving past Town Clerk Mr Gordon Mussett and Haverhill's first Mayor Gerry Kiernan will be invited to join current Mayor Roger André in giving brief speeches before an invited audience to include former Councillors and past Mayors. The event will include a light buffet and, if practical, a commemorative gift. The Clerk was directed to bring forward detailed arrangements for approval by Council at its next meeting in April.

CLERK

9. **Closure**

The meeting was closed at 8.04pm.