

POCKLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL POLICY & RESOURCE COMMITTEE

The Policy & Resources Committee of Pocklington Town Council met at **7pm** on Wednesday 24th January 2018 in the Town Meeting Room, The Old Courthouse, George Street, Pocklington.

Present: Cllr Sykes (Chairman), Cllr Cooper, Cllr Green, Cllr Hodgson, Cllr Perry, Cllr Ratcliffe, Cllr Sharpe, Cllr Spademan and Cllr Winterton.

In attendance: two members of the public, J. Farmer (Pocklington Arts Centre Manager), J. Duffy Pocklington Arts Centre (Deputy Manager) and G. Scaife (Town Clerk)

1. The Notice of meeting was proposed by Cllr Green 2nd Cllr Ratcliffe and agreed
2. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Hutchinson (Prior Engagement) and Cllr Jones (illness)

Declarations of Interest

3. To record declarations of interest by any member of the council in respect of the agenda items listed below. Members were asked when declaring interests to identify the agenda item and type of interest being declared.

No declarations were received.

4. Consider suspending the meeting to allow presentations from members of the public. Cllr Perry proposed that the meeting be suspended to allow a member of the public to speak, 2nd Cllr Sharpe and agreed

B. Speck spoke about a potential community business aimed at a family audience during the day and a teenage one in an evening.

Cllr Cooper proposed that the Council supports the idea of the community business 2nd Cllr Perry and agreed.

5. Consider continuing the meeting. Cllr Cooper proposed continuing the meeting 2nd Cllr Ratcliffe and agreed
6. To receive and discuss the financial report from the Arts Centre Manager relating to the Arts Centre.

J. Farmer presented a report on the Arts Centre's account up to 30th September 2017. The report shows a trading profit for the quarter of £1,155 for the quarter and a trading profit of £2,055 for the year to date (compared to £4,008 and £434 respectively last year).

The quarter produced a profit of £9,174 on live events ahead of the budget of £8,000 (compared to £6,264 in the same quarter in 2016). Cinema profit at £6,234 was below the budget of £7,800 (£6,836 in 2016). Live broadcasts achieved a profit of £1,551 below the budget of £2000 and an increase on 21016.

Hire income and booking charges at £1,616 and £700 were ahead of the budget at £1,500 and £500 respectively. Advertising income at £858 was ahead of the budget of £750.

Grants and donations amounted to £3,426. Overheads at £26,869 came in on budget of £26,800 (but an increase on £22,037 in 2016). During this period a server upgrade and emergency IT works were required, impacting on the quarter's profits.

In summary, a challenging period of the Arts Centre as we continue to try to claw back the deficit (a minus reserve figure) incurred with the venue's closure during building works in 2016/17. Nationwide, cinema attendance is significantly down this year and live broadcasts are not yielding the return that they did when first introduced in 2012 – due to local/regional saturation, lack of 'star' names and increased quantity diluting customer demand. Overheads continue to rise and this year is also a period without significant grant income.

However, I am optimistic that with a promising December quarter and some fundraising initiatives currently taking place, 2018 looks positive for the venue. In addition, Arts Council England investment from April 2018 (£69,500) will be a real game-changer for the Arts Centre.

Cllr Hodgson proposed that the accounts and report for the quarter ending 30th September be accepted 2nd Cllr Green and agreed.

7. To receive and discuss the financial report for the Town Council.

The Clerk reported on the following.

Introduction – Income to the end of December 2017 was 38,898 ahead of budget. These were due to a grant of £8,892 for the Neighbourhood Development Plan, the burial fee income is ahead of the budget by £4,360 and there is miscellaneous income of £30,829.

This year the total expenditure to date is £228,861.

Income

Allotment rent is due in February or March 2018.

Cemetery - There will be further income from the Cemetery.

Room hire – The income from room hire has been declining and a reduction has been put in place for next year.

Shop rents There is still the remaining amount to come from the rents.

Feed in tariff The solar panels on the Art Centre have performed well over the summer despite the weather and a further reading is to be sent towards the middle of March 2018.

Expenditure

The expenditure is on track, there are some large items still to pay for in the final quarter this includes the loan repayments for PAC due in January of £20098.96.

The miscellaneous expenditure mostly ties in with the miscellaneous income.

Property Maintenance –The property maintenance is over budget due to the retention amounts held for Hobson and Porter and Scothern's for the two Arts Centre refurbishment projects. The Scothern's retention was used to fix the defects in the Granwood floor of the Studio. These retentions were held as earmarked reserves from last year and have been spent from this. Therefore there is still around £6,500 to spend on property maintenance in this financial year. There is still some spending to come and therefore there will be around £4,500 left in this budget.

Grounds Maintenance – The grounds maintenance budget is overspent by £1,929. However there are some items that could have been posted to the Equipment Fund rather than Grounds Maintenance. The likely outturn for grounds maintenance will be a small overspend.

The amounts spent on Grounds Maintenance are as follows.

Description	Cost
Cemetery	£10,340.00
Open Spaces	£6,281.89
Play Areas repairs	£1,149.91
All Saints Churchyard	£1,353.35
Winter Maintenance	164.15

The winter maintenance expenditure is likely to increase due to the weather and the need to order more rock salt. We have had two deliveries so far this winter.

Bank Accounts as at end of December 2017

The current account stood at £14,043.27

The deposit account stood at £156,824.34

Reserves

The financial reserve Pocklington Town Council needs in the bank based on a precept of £258,562 is £129,281 which is half the precept. The finances show that the reserves will be below this amount at the end of the current financial year but will have improved based upon last years.

Loan Repayments

The loan repayments for the first two taken out for the Arts Centre still have years to run and are due to finish in July 2022 and July 2023.

8. To receive a verbal report from the personnel committee.
The personnel committee had met this evening at 6.30pm to discuss the recruitment to two posts at Pocklington Arts Centre. The two posts are a venue co-ordinator 20 hours a week and an audience development and marketing officer 20 hours a week. The posts are funded by Arts Council England for four years.

Cllr Spademan proposed that the posts be recruited to using the schedule proposed 2nd Cllr Hodgson and agreed.

The meeting closed at 8.11pm.