

POLICY & RESOURCE COMMITTEE

A Policy & Resources Committee meeting was held on Wednesday 21st December 2016 which commenced at 7pm at the Town Meeting Room, The Old Courthouse, George Street, Pocklington.

Present: Cllr Sykes (Chairman), Cllr Cooper, Cllr Hodgson, Cllr Jones, Cllr West & Cllr Winterton.

In Attendance Gordon Scaife (Town Clerk), Janet Farmer (Arts Centre Manager) and James Duffy (Arts Centre Deputy Manager)

1. The notice of meeting was proposed by Cllr West 2nd Cllr Cooper and agreed.
2. Apologies for absence were received. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Hutchinson, Perry, Ratcliffe and Spademan.
3. To record declarations of interest by any member of the council in respect of the agenda items listed below. Members declaring interests should identify the agenda item and type of interest being declared. No declarations of interest were received.
4. Consider suspending the meeting to allow presentations. There were no presentations so it was not necessary to suspend and then continue the meeting.
5. Consider continuing the meeting. See agenda item 4.
6. To receive and discuss the financial report from the Arts Centre Manager relating to the Arts Centre. JF presented her report on the trading accounts for the Arts Centre for the second quarter (July - September 2016).

The figures for the year to date show a profit of £434 and a profit for the quarter of £4008. This is a turnaround from the first quarter which showed a loss. The loss in the first quarter is attributable to the venue being closed due to the refurbishment.

Live events made a profit of £6264 which included another successful Platform Festival. Cinema performed well with several appealing summer films including Bridget Jones' Baby and Finding Dory. Hire income has benefited from the new space & facilities and generated new revenue with a profit for the quarter of £4887.00.

The bar has also benefited from the refurbishment and produced a profit of £2446.00. Although it is early days (summer is a traditionally quiet time for live events etc), it looks promising and the 3rd quarter end accounts will reflect the increase use.

The Platform festival profit was £1,433.00

Tuesday audience in camera club, choir and events. Some nights are quieter and private hires are successful. 2 christenings, 3 birthdays. Outside catering working well promote as a party venue for private hire.

There was a discussion about the Tour de Yorkshire and JF discussed their initial ideas of how the Arts Centre could be involved. GS is to invite JF to join the Tour de Yorkshire steering group which is to be formed in January. The screen in the bar area at the Arts Centre can stream the event from ITV 4. The Arts Centre streamed games from the Euros in the summer.

Cllr Sykes thank you to JF and JD for their hard work during the quarter.

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

The clerk presented the report and explained were there might be some budget pressures. The budget is on track.

Fuel costs are likely to be higher than budgeted due to the Council purchasing a van which is due to be delivered to us in January 2017. The Council has incurred more professional fees than has been budgeted for this is due to the fees required to asset transfer the Old Courthouse from East Riding of Yorkshire Council into the Council's ownership.

8. To discuss the draft list of potential projects.

1. **Transport, lighting and road safety.** Cllr Cooper suggested that the budget for transport, lighting and road safety will need to be increased to fund potential new bus shelters in the town and electronic time table displays. A recent poll on facebook showed that there was support in the town for the time table displays. The Clerk will cost these items and introduce a budget line. An increase in the budget will also be needed if new lighting columns are needed on the West Green footpath.
2. **Arts Centre Roof Insulation.** Cllr Jones has undertaken research into the insulation for the roof space at the Arts Centre and this will need to be budgeted for.
3. **Buses.** A meeting is being arranged with East Yorkshire Motor Services, East Riding of Yorkshire Council about the proposed cuts to services in our area.
4. **Benches.** More research and consultation will be required to take this project forward. Consultation will be required with residents and East Riding of Yorkshire Council about the best locations for new benches.
5. **Planters.** The new planters will require poster frames to ensure we can advertise our events in the town.
6. **Cemetery.** The Clerk will investigate prices for a new obelisk for ashes. There is also a project to tarmac the public footpath in the cemetery.
7. **Table Tennis Table and Gym equipment.** A grant has been obtained to install the table tennis tables. A grant application will be submitted shortly for the gym equipment.

9. To consider the draft budget for next year and town event.

The Clerk reported that the budget for next year should include a new heading for events. There was a discussion about the annual events we hold – Summer Fair, Bonfire Night and Christmas Fair. Next year with the Tour de Yorkshire there will need to a budget to cover the hire of a stage and outdoor screen and staging for the town. The Clerk will add a line to the draft budget it was proposed that this should be £15,000.

The project in item 8 need to be worked into the budget for next year. The draft budget will be discussed in more detail at the meeting to be held on 4 January 2017.

10. Consider a review of the I.T systems.

It was agreed to defer this due to the current volume of work. The Clerk will contact our IT support to find out about our off-site storage.

The meeting closed at 8.17 pm