

Contact Name: *Melanie Stephens*
Tel No: *(023) 8028 5588*
E-mail: *melanie.stephens@nfdc.gov.uk*
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NOTIFICATION OF DECISIONS

COUNCIL – 9 DECEMBER 2013

Agenda Item 5 – Report of Cabinet

The recommendations were agreed.

Agenda Item 6 – Questions Under Standing Order 22

Cllr D Harrison asked the Leader of the Council whether he shared his (Cllr Harrison's) shock at a recent poll which had revealed that only 12% of 18-24 year olds intended to vote in the forthcoming elections.

The Leader replied that he was not shocked and gave an overview of how the Council engaged with young people. He declined Cllr Harrison's request to set up a Task & Finish Group to look at a range of measures that could be implemented or improved upon to promote youth involvement in the democratic process.

Agenda Item 7 – Questions to Portfolio Holders under Standing Order 22A

Financial Support to Luncheon Clubs in Totton

Cllrs D Harrison and Lagdon asked the Portfolio Holder for Housing & Communities whether the funding to Age Concern New Forest could be restored in order to allow the luncheon clubs in Totton to continue.

The Portfolio Holder replied that in 2012 she, along with Cabinet colleagues, had taken the decision to cease subsidising the Meals on Wheels service in the District as this was the direct responsibility of Hampshire County Council. At the same time, she had felt it wrong for the Council to continue to provide financial support to individual luncheon clubs when others in the District received none. Officers had met with representatives of all the supported luncheon clubs and agreed a process for withdrawing funding over a three year period. It had been agreed that the Council would cease supporting the Totton luncheon clubs in April 2014. Any luncheon club could apply for grant funding from the Council, but would have to be considered along with all other applications for grants. The Portfolio Holder hoped that luncheon clubs would receive financial support from Hampshire County Council, which was responsible for older persons' services.

Roof Repairs to North Wing at Appletree Court

Cllr C Harrison asked the Portfolio Holder for Finance & Efficiency for details of the original and the revised budgets for the roof repairs currently being carried out at Appletree Court. Cllr Harrison understood that further repair work, not originally identified, had been found necessary.

The Portfolio Holder confirmed that further work had been found essential. It was expected that this would mean expenditure of 6–7% above the original budget but as work was ongoing the final costs were not yet known. He would be happy to provide Cllr Harrison with more detailed financial information after the meeting.

Note: Cllr Wise subsequently provided the following information to all members:

“Following on from last evening’s Council meeting and having had the opportunity to take further advice on confidentiality as the contract in question has not yet been completed, I wish now to clarify to all members my response to Cllr Chris Harrison’s question.

The question was:

‘I understand that a budget was agreed for roof repairs to Appletree Court and that in the course of this work being carried out further repair work has been identified. Please can you tell me the original budget and the revised budget for these roof repairs.’

The original budget for the works to the North Wing was £90,000 and included refurbishment of the 2nd floor offices (occupied by Leisure and Employment), thermal efficiency improvements, replacement of the roof covering and windows and re-pointing of the North Wing brickwork. The successful tender for the works was £75,000. Allowing for a contingency this was within the original budget for the works.

During the course of the works serious structural defects were identified within the roof structure. Structural engineers advised that substantial strengthening works would need to be implemented before the works could continue and the offices be safely reoccupied. This work included the installation of a number of large reinforced steel joists. The additional cost of these necessary works was £19,800.

A waiver from Standing Orders was sought and approved (Standing Order 81 - the variation being in excess of 10% of the contract sum) enabling the work to continue. Works are still in progress and the final total contract sum may alter but the expected cost outturn is now estimated to be £96,000.

Eventual spend will be approximately £6,000 over the original budget and this will be funded from savings in the offices revenue maintenance budget, as part of normal officer delegations.”

Agenda Item 8 – Absence from Meetings – Cllr Miss A Hickman

As Cllr Miss Hickman was present at the meeting, this item was withdrawn.

Agenda Item 9 – Membership of Committees and Panels

The following changes were agreed:

Planning Development Control Committee

Cllr Mrs Rostand has been replaced by Cllr Southgate

General Purposes & Licensing Committee

Cllr Miss Hickman has been replaced by Cllr Mrs Wyeth

THIS DECISION LIST HAS BEEN PREPARED BY THE COMMITTEE ADMINISTRATOR AND IS CIRCULATED TO INFORM COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS IMMEDIATELY OF DECISIONS REACHED AT COUNCIL MEETINGS. THE WORDING OF RESOLUTIONS IN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING MIGHT DIFFER FROM THE ABOVE.
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