

**EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING OF THE WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL**

**Held on Monday 9 January 2017**

**At 7pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall**

**Present:**

Councillor C Holliday (Chairman)

Councillors:	S E Bartington	J M Doughty
	A K Beames	H B Eaglestone
	C Brown	D S Enright
	H W Chirgwin	J S King
	B J Churchill	T J Morris
	P J Dorward	L M Price
		D Temple
		C K Woodward

Officers:	Town Clerk	Democratic Services Officer
-----------	------------	-----------------------------

Also Present: 5 members of the public

009 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for their absence were received from Cllrs Harvey and Reynolds.

010 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Price declared a non pecuniary interest as she was a director and founder member of West Oxfordshire Community Transport Ltd.

011 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Committee adjourned in line with standing order 42 so that Margaret Burden and David Miles could address the Council.

012 **WITNEY TOWN CENTRE BUS SERVICE**

The Council received and considered the report of the Town Clerk as circulated with the agenda. Members discussed the report and the request for a funding advance to purchase a vehicle from West Oxfordshire Community Transport Ltd.

*Cllr Enright entered at 7.13pm.*

It was acknowledged that there was £4,700 available in the current year's budget but this would not be enough to purchase a bus so money would be needed from the money earmarked in the following financial year (£15,000).

Members expressed concern about the quality of the vehicle that would be purchased as it was the existing Go Ride Bus, and what might happen if it broke down. Members were also unsure about giving the money as a straightforward grant. It was felt it might be better and

give the Town Council more security if the money was forwarded as “equity” in the Company, with a Council Member sitting on the board.

A member asked the Council to support the request as the alternative was no bus service for the town centre.

Cllr Price was asked why the Company had not applied for a District Council Loan rather than coming to the Town Council for money. She replied that the District Council Loan would have to be repaid with interest and therefore if there were any other interest free options it would be preferable.

The Leader proposed that the Council delegate authority to himself and Cllr Bartington (as Chairman of the Public Transportation Working Party) to formulate a cash flow to provide financial assistance in the form of share capital/equity rather than a grant.

All members were in favour of this. Cllr Price abstained from voting due to her conflict of interest.

**RESOLVED:** that the Council delegate authority to the Leader and Cllr Bartington to formulate a cash flow to provide financial assistance in the form of share capital/equity rather than a grant, and that the Council has a nominated representative on the WOCT Board in return.

---

The meeting closed at 7.47pm.

---

Chairman