

Policy and Finance Committee

Date: 25 February 2019

Title: Town Crier

Purpose of the Report: To set out the formal arrangements for the role of Town Crier.

Contact Officer: Vivien Cannon, Head of Cultural and Economic Services

Corporate Objective/s	LLTC Three Year Plan – Aim 2.	
Implications:		
Financial	√	Within existing budget
Human Resources		
Operational/Service delivery		
Procedural/Legal	√	Confirm procedural arrangements
Risk/Health and Safety		

1. RECOMMENDATION/S

Should members be minded, the proposals are:

1.1 To endorse the Rules for the Town Crier as set out in para. 2.3.

1.1.1 To endorse a proportion of the existing budget to the sum of £300 (101/4920) be set aside on an annual basis to provide subsistence as per formal arrangements for supporting the Town Crier role, as per para 2.6.

2. INFORMATION

2.1 The role of a Town Crier is that of local message giver – an ‘announcer,’ ‘proclaimer,’ or ‘bellman.’ The Council has enjoyed a volunteer undertaking this activity on behalf of the Council for some 13 years. To date, the incumbent has attended our programme of events and special events to help the Council relay messages to attendees.

2.2 The Council finds itself needing to recruit a replacement for the retiring Town Crier.

2.3 In preparing the activity to recruit to the role, officers seek to establish formal

guidance for the new incumbent and to secure a support budget for the service of this volunteer role to ensure s/he is not out of pocket and represents the Parish appropriately.

2.4 It is the understanding of officers through talking with the current Town Crier that there were 'rules' given to guide the activity of the role. It is proposed to keep them as a baseline and maintain this simple approach:

1. The role of Town Crier is voluntary and unpaid.
2. The services of the Town Crier are provided free of charge for official council business and any other charitable organization, school, club, etc. within the Parish of Leighton-Linslade. Travel expenses will be recompensed using the allocated Council budget.
3. If another council or organization out of the area requested the services of the Town Crier, then modest traveling expenses could be charged, and this will be by arrangement between Town Crier and host organisation.
4. If a commercial enterprise wanted the uses of the Town Crier, then a realistic charge would be made, and the proceeds given to the Town Mayor's Charity.

2.5 The Council will need to provide the garments and it would be reasonable that dry-cleaning costs for them are also recompensed.

2.6 It is proposed that the above costs will be funded through the existing budget code, (101/4920) on annual basis setting aside £300. Following recruitment, additional budget will need to be allocated to pay the cost of having garments made. This will come from the same budget code as a one off purchase.

3. OPTIONS

3.1 Whilst there is no 'official' Town Crier attire, most people associate the role with flamboyant lace ruffs, a tricorne hat and cape. We therefore have an option to continue with this style of garment or to be modern, for example, having a top hat and long coat. Committee may wish to provide a view on this or leave it to officers who, when in the knowledge of the replacement person, could make the decision in discussion with the incumbent based on their build and gender.

3.2 The Council has enjoyed the service of a loyal Town Crier for many years. There is no guarantee that the new Town Crier will be able or willing to provide the same longevity of service. It is therefore proposed that when recruiting for the new Crier is underway, it is made clear that there is an expectation that applicants commit to a minimum term of 3-years. Thus, also giving a clear message that the Council seeks to attract those who are serious in intent.

END