

son Holt (F14026)t;

- ii. To adopt the revised Financial Standing Orders, Appendix A (F14028);
- iii. To adopt the revised Risk Assessment Strategy, Appendix B (F14029).

All recommendations were **agreed**.

- d. Cllr Dowie proposed that Auditor A be appointed for the internal audit 2014/15. This proposal was **agreed**;
- e. Cllr Coughlan proposed that the standard terms of reference for the internal auditor be retained. This proposal was **agreed**;
- f. It was **agreed** to rename account number 31430734 (previously allocated to Cemetery Funds, present balance £0.00 (Minute 14141g)) to 'Town Team Funds' pursuant to minutes 14029d), 14047d) and 14072c);
- g. It was **agreed** to authorise payment by direct debit for fuel charges associated with the Sportsfield.

**14204** Recommendations from the Staffing Committee were received and the updated draft Councils Priorities and Cost Control Statement was considered. Cllr Clarke stated that the document was in contradiction to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and said he had taken legal advice on the matter. Cllr Brewster expressed the view that if agreed the document allowed the staffing committee to decide which information a councillor could have. Other councillors did not agree with this interpretation by Cllrs Clarke and Brewster. The document was reviewed and it was suggested that the wording of the final paragraphs should be amended to better reflect Staffing Committee Minute 14021S (dated 12 March 2015) wherein 'It was agreed that when dealing with requests for information from Councillors, in the first instance the Town Clerk would, to the best of their ability, provide relevant information available to them in accordance with the timescales as set out in the Standing Orders. If the content of the information provided was then to be questioned this would be referred to the committee or full council for further response, as necessary.'

It was repeatedly stressed that under no circumstances did the document impede the provision of information to councillors and members of the public and that the focus was on the avenue for this information in instances where requests for information became more time consuming.

It was stressed that the staffing committee did not wish to restrict access to information. The committee believed that as a responsible employer the Council should protect the clerk from repeated, time consuming requests for the same information.

The item was deferred until the next meeting and a revised draft of the final paragraph will be circulated in advance of the meeting.

During discussion of this item Cllr Clarke made allegations regarding Cllr Coughlan's comments to him at the recent Finance Committee meeting. He also said that he believed that information he had requested from the Clerk was available and was being withheld and that Cllr Dowie was "covering up her mistakes" with regard to the Moorside Room.

The Chairman told Cllr Clarke that his behaviour was contrary to Standing Orders and that he should stop speaking. Cllr Clarke refused to do so and he continued to speak for several more minutes. The Chairman repeated several times that he should stop speaking and he then complied.

**14205** It was **agreed** to adopt a policy in relation to the management of the Moorside Room. Cllr Coughlan had provided his policy position and proposed that Councillors submit their suggestions for the policy content to the Town Clerk for review at the April meeting.