

**Present:** Councillor Anderson (Chairman) and Councillors Brownson and Wilson

**Also Present:** Councillor Fleming and David Anderson (Town Clerk)

**FIN.33/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Blackburn, Golightly, Race and S. Zair

**FIN.34/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made

**FIN.35/16 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

**REPORT OF TOWN CLERK**

**FIN.36/16 ACCOUNT BALANCES AS AT 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2016**

The Town Clerk reported account balances as follows:-

Lloyds Deposit Account	£93,095.91
Lloyds Current Account	£1,422.45
Lloyds Mayors Charity Account	£1,062.58
Darlington Building Society	£74,010.00
Nationwide	£75,000.00
Santander	£0.00
Public Sector Deposit Fund	£0.00

**RECOMMENDED:** That the information be noted.

**FIN.37/16 AUTHORISATION OF CHEQUES – DELEGATED POWERS**

In accordance with delegated powers, payments totalling the amounts below had been made as detailed in the report:-

Current Account	£23,898.14
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**RECOMMENDED:** That the action taken be confirmed.

**FIN.38/16 CHEQUES PRESENTED FOR AUTHORISATION**

There were no cheques presented for authorisation.

**RECOMMENDED:** That the information be noted.

**FIN.39/16 NEW WEBSITE**

Consideration was given to a report regarding an estimate received from Durham County Council in relation to the development of a new website for the Town Council, proposals of which had been previously agreed by the Council. (For copy see file of Minutes).

**RECOMMENDED:** 1. That Durham County Council be requested to undertake development work for the new website.

**FIN.40/16 NOTIFICATION OF TAX BASE AND LOCAL COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME GRANT 2017/18**

Members noted details of the Tax Base and Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme Grant for 2017/18 as notified by Durham County Council. (For copy see file of Minutes).

**Signed:** .....  
**Chair**

It was noted that the Council would need to increase the precept by £1,071.38 to achieve a standstill budget. However, it was explained that budget requirements would also need to be considered in the context of the outcome of consultation on the Parish Plan which had not yet concluded. The Government proposal to extend referendum principles to local councils would also be considered taking a medium to long term view of the Council's budgetary requirements.

It was therefore suggested that the precept be considered at the Finance Committee scheduled to be held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2017 and at the Council meeting to be held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

- RECOMMENDED**
1. That the information be noted
  2. That consideration of the precept for be given at the Finance Committee to be held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2017 and at the Council meeting to be held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017

#### **FIN.41/16 APPLICATIONS FOR COMMUNITY FUND / DONATIONS**

Members considered applications for grants under the Community Fund from the following organisations:-

1. Bishop Auckland Station History Group
2. Bishop Auckland Theatre Society
3. Four Clocks Club

Requests for donations had also been received from

1. Bishop Auckland Fellowship of Christian Churches
2. Great North Air Ambulance
3. Bishop Auckland College, Games for the Brain Group, which had been received after the issue of the agenda.

Members noted that Bishop Auckland Theatre Society was in the process of reviewing its banking arrangements to require two signatures.

- RECOMMENDED:**
1. That a grant from the Community Fund of £100 be made to Bishop Auckland Station History Group
  2. That a grant from the Community Fund £300 be made to Bishop Auckland Theatre Society
  3. That a grant from the Community Fund £100 be made to the Four Clocks Club
  4. That a donation of £150 be made to Bishop Auckland Fellowship of Christian Churches
  5. That a donation of £100 be made Great North Air Ambulance
  6. That a donation of £150 be made Bishop Auckland College, Games for the Brain Group

All grants and donations are made under the Localism Act 2011 (Power of Competence)

Signed: .....  
Chair