

Minutes of the Meeting of the **FINANCE COMMITTEE** held in the Four Clocks Centre, Bishop Auckland on **TUESDAY, 20TH JULY 2010 AT 4.00 P.M.**

Present: Councillor Anderson, Laurie, Lee, Lethbridge, Wilson and L. Zair.

FIN 14/10 ELECTION OF CHAIR

Councillor Laurie proposed and Councillor L. Zair seconded a nomination that Councillor Anderson be elected Chair of the Committee for the ensuing year.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Anderson be and is hereby elected Chair of the Finance Committee for the ensuing year.

(Councillor Anderson in the Chair)

FIN 15/10 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

Councillor Lethbridge proposed and Councillor Anderson seconded a nomination that Councillor Wilson be appointed Vice-Chair of the Committee for the ensuing year.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Wilson be and is hereby appointed Vice-Chair of the Finance Committee for the ensuing year.

FIN 16/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

FIN 17/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

FIN 18/10 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public in attendance.

REPORT OF TOWN CLERK. The Town Clerk reported as follows:-

**FIN 19/10 DEPOSIT ACCOUNT –
BALANCE AS AT 20TH JULY 2010**

The balance of the Deposit Account as at 20th July 2010 was £56,179.29.

RECOMMENDED: That the information be noted.

**FIN 20/10 CURRENT ACCOUNT –
BALANCE AS AT 20TH JULY 2010**

The balance of the Current Account as at 20th July 2010 was £54,922.29

The Clerk pointed out that £50,100 of the above balance was to be invested in a Barclays Bond.

RECOMMENDED: That the information be noted.

Signed:

Chair

**FIN 21/10 ALLOTMENTS ACCOUNT –
BALANCE AS AT 20TH JULY 2010**

The balance of the Allotments Account as at 20th July 2010 was £18,517.79.

RECOMMENDED: That the information be noted.

FIN 22/10 CHEQUES WRITTEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

In accordance with Minute TC 54/09, the Mayor and Chair of Finance had authorised payment of the cheque nos. 442 - 449 from the Current Account and cheque nos. 10 - 15 from the Allotments Account.

RESOLVED: That the action taken be noted.

FIN 23/10 CHEQUES PRESENTED FOR AUTHORISATION

RECOMMENDED: (i) That cheque nos. 450 - 454 be authorised for payment.

(ii) That cheque no. 435 which was listed at the last Council meeting as being for an amount of £435.00 be amended to read £58.00.

**FIN 24/10 H.M. REVENUE & CUSTOMS – RECLAMATION OF TAX INTEREST
ON HALIFAX SAVINGS BOND**

Tax had been charged on the interest received on the Halifax Savings Bond. This had now been reclaimed and an amount of £168.55 had been received and put into Reserves.

RECOMMENDED: That the information be noted.

**FIN 25/10 SPEND AGAINST BUDGET –
1ST APRIL – 30TH JUNE 2010**

A copy of the Spend Against Budget for the period 1st April – 30th June 2010 had been circulated at the meeting.

Members noted the spend against the various budget headings. The Chair drew members attention to the following:

- That there was an earmarked spend of £3,000 for the 2008 Bye-Election in Reserves
- That an amount of £10,000 was included in the Capital Budget
- That £40,100 (at present in the current account) was working capital and, together with the £10,000 Capital Budget (£50,100) was to be invested in a Barclays Savings Bond

Councillor Lethbridge thanked the Chair and the Town Clerk for their efforts in preparing the first quarterly spend against budget.

RECOMMENDED: (i) That the balances be noted.

(ii) That the £3,000 earmarked spend for the 2008 Bye-Election be no longer earmarked for this purpose but to be left in General Reserves.

(iii) That the investment of £50,100 in the Barclays Savings Bond be identified as a build up of capital for the possible purchase of future premises.

Signed:
Chair

FIN 26/10 COMMUNITY FUND APPLICATION –

(a) St. John Ambulance Bishop Auckland Badger Sett (L.G.A. 1972 – Section 19)

A Community Fund Application had been received from the St. John Ambulance Bishop Auckland Badger Sett for £500 towards the provision of first aid and sports kit (£460.80) and craft equipment (£100.00). The group was based in Woodhouse Close Church.

RECOMMENDED: That an amount of £500.00 be given to the St. John Ambulance Bishop Auckland Badger Sett towards the purchase of the above equipment, subject to receipt of satisfactory paid invoices.

FIN 27/10 DONATIONS -

(a) Finchale Training College (L.G.A. 1972 – Section 137)

An application for a donation had been received from Finchale Training College in Durham towards a fitness room renovation project.

Finchale Training College was a leading provider of vocational training and rehabilitation of adults living with physical and mental disabilities and experiencing long-term unemployment.

The project was to provide trainees with a facility outside of their training to encourage better physical and emotional well-being. It is recognised that healthy minds and healthy bodies are key factors to living an independent life. The newly renovated fitness room will be equipped with cardiovascular improving equipment, such as a treadmill and rowing machine.

RECOMMENDED: That an amount of £200 be donated to Finchale Training College towards the purchase of the above equipment.

(b) Community Football – Bishop Auckland F.C. (L.G.A. 1972 – Section 137)

Included in this year's budget is an amount of £3,000 towards the provision of community football through Bishop Auckland F.C.

Last year's scheme proved a great success and the Football Club would like to repeat the exercise of donating a combination of season tickets and complimentary match tickets to local schools and community organisations such as BA St. Mary's FC.

An action plan outlining a Review of 2009 – 2010 season distribution and the intended scheme for 2010-2011 season had been circulated.

RECOMMENDED: That the amount of £3,000 be released to the Football Club towards the distribution of free match tickets for schools and Bishop Auckland St. Mary's Juniors.

FIN 28/10 WEBSITE

Work on the setting up of the Town Council website had stalled and further discussion took place as to how to progress the matter. Members were of the opinion that the Town Council should have a professionally designed website.

RECOMMENDED: That quotations be sought for the setting up of the Town Council's website including regular updates.

Signed:

Chair

FIN 29/10 FUTURE JOBS FUND – GROUNDWORK NORTH EAST

Information had been received through Groundwork North East that funding had been secured from the Government's Future Jobs Fund Programme. The Town Council could benefit from this programme by being able to employ a temporary admin worker for 25 hours at the national minimum wage for a period of 6 months – wages to be paid by Groundwork.

All administration would be carried out by Groundwork.

RECOMMENDED: That the Town Clerk be authorised to complete the application for a temporary admin worker for 25 hours at the national minimum wage for a period of 6 months with the wages being paid by Groundwork North East from funding secured from the Future Jobs Fund Programme.

FIN 30/10 MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION –

(a) Deputy Mayor's Chain of Office

RECOMMENDED: That the purchase of a Chain of Office for the Deputy Mayor be considered at the Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 27th July 2010.

Signed:
Chair