

Minutes of the Meeting of the **FINANCE COMMITTEE** held in the Four Clocks Centre, Bishop Auckland on **TUESDAY, 15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2011 AT 4.00 P.M.**

**Present:** Councillor Anderson (in the Chair) and Councillors Laurie, Lee and Lethbridge.

**Also Present:** Linda Goldie (Town Clerk)

**FIN 103/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Lesley Zair.

**FIN 104/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**FIN 105/10 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

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

**FIN 106/10 DEPOSIT ACCOUNT –  
BALANCE AS AT 15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2011**

The balance of the Deposit Account as at 15<sup>th</sup> March was £15,321.89.

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

**FIN 107/10 CURRENT ACCOUNT –  
BALANCE AS AT 15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2011**

The balance of the Current Account as at 15<sup>th</sup> March 2011 was £5,041.03.

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

**FIN 108/10 ALLOTMENTS ACCOUNT –  
BALANCE AS AT 15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2011**

The balance of the Allotments Account as at 15<sup>th</sup> March 2011 was £2,757.14.

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

**FIN 109/10 MAYOR'S CHARITY ACCOUNT –  
BALANCE AS AT 15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2011**

The balance of the Mayor's Charity Account as at 15<sup>th</sup> March 2011 was £4,172.11

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

**FIN 110/10 AUTHORISATION OF CHEQUES – DELEGATED POWERS**

In accordance with Minute TC 54/09, the Mayor and Chair of Finance had authorised payment of cheque nos. 545 – 554 & 557 from the Current Account.

**RESOLVED:** That the action taken be noted.

**Signed:** ..... **1 - 3**  
**Chair**

**FIN 111/10 CHEQUES PRESENTED FOR AUTHORISATION**

Cheque nos. 555 & 556 from the Current Account were presented for payment.

**RECOMMENDED:** That the above-mentioned cheques be authorised for payment.

**FIN 112/10 COMMUNITY FUND – APPLICATION –**

**(a) Bishop Auckland Youth Forum**

A Community Fund Application had been received from Bishop Auckland Youth Forum requesting an amount of £500 towards their attendance at a protest march in London on 26<sup>th</sup> March against public sector cuts and the impact they will have. The group planned to turn the visit into an overnight stay so that the young people could see some of London while there were there

**RECOMMENDED:** That the request be refused.

**FIN 113/10 DONATION/COMMUNITY FUND – LETTERS OF THANKS**

**(a) Action for Children**

A letter of thanks had been received from Action for Children for the donation of £50.00 to the Charity which was greatly appreciated and would go straight to providing care for children and young people in the region.

**(b) Bishop Auckland Badger Sett of St. Ambulance**

A letter of thanks had been received from the Bishop Auckland Badger Sett for the donation of £500 towards the purchase of training and development materials for the Badgers and the funding had made a difference to the group.

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

**FIN 114/10 PROVISION OF DOG BAGS – DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL**

From 1<sup>st</sup> April, Durham County Council would no longer supply dog bags to local councils for distribution to their residents. This was part of the cost cutting exercise being undertaken by DCC.

With this in mind, several members of the larger Local Councils Forum decided that they would wish to continue to provide dog bags to their residents. The decision as to whether or not to charge residents for these dog bags would be left to each individual Council. Seaham Town Council had researched into the costs associated with dog waste bags and the following information had been received:

Some Councils had decided that they would be interested in purchasing the economy bags at £6.62+vat per 1,000. To obtain this price a bulk order needed to be placed for 200,000 (+) bags. To facilitate this arrangement, Great Aycliffe Town Council had kindly agreed to act as an agent to procure these bags by purchasing a bulk order and storing it in their offices until Councils could collect their order.

**RECOMMENDED:** That the Town Council participate in the above scheme and an order for 5,000 dog bags be purchased.

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

**FIN 115/10 SPEND AGAINST BUDGET AS AT 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2011 – VIREMENT OF MONIES**

A copy of the Spend Against Budget as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011 would be circulated in April. However, in order to reduce the expected deficit of £1,393.38 against the Town Clerk's Salary before the financial year end, it was:

**RECOMMENDED:** That £1,100 Allotments Recharge income (8 months) together with £300 V.A.T. income (Sept – Jan 11) be used for this shortfall.

**FIN 116/10 ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE – DELEGATED SPEND**

**RECOMMENDED:** That the Chair of the Allotments Committee in consultation with the Town Clerk, be authorised to spend up to £500 under delegated powers and the Council's Financial Regulations be amended accordingly.

**FIN 117/10 MATTERS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION**

There were no matters for future discussion.

Signed: .....  
Chair