

Minutes of the Meeting of the **FINANCE COMMITTEE** held in the Four Clocks Centre, Bishop Auckland on **TUESDAY, 19TH JULY 2011 AT 4.00 P.M.**

Present: Councillor Anderson (**in the Chair**) and Councillors Golightly, Laurie, Lethbridge and Wilson

Also Present: Linda Goldie (Town Clerk)

FIN 20/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Kay.

FIN 21/11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

FIN 22/11 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public in attendance.

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

**FIN 23/11 DEPOSIT ACCOUNT –
BALANCE AS AT 19TH JULY 2011**

The balance of the Deposit Account as at 19th July 2011 was £20,833.67.

RECOMMENDED: That the information be noted.

**FIN 24/11 CURRENT ACCOUNT –
BALANCE AS AT 19TH JULY 2011**

The balance of the Current Account as at 19th July 2011 was £11,640.71.

RECOMMENDED: That the information be noted.

**FIN 25/11 ALLOTMENTS ACCOUNT –
BALANCE AS AT 19TH JULY 2011**

The balance of the Allotments Account as at 19th July 2011 was £13,500.29

RECOMMENDED: That the information be noted.

**FIN 26/11 MAYOR'S CHARITY ACCOUNT –
BALANCE AS AT 19TH JULY 2011**

The balance of the Mayor's Charity Account as at 19th July 2011 was £525.29.

RECOMMENDED: That the information be noted.

FIN 27/11 AUTHORISATION OF CHEQUES – DELEGATED POWERS

In accordance with Minute TC 54/09, the Mayor and Chair of Finance had authorised payment of cheque nos. 50 - 54 from the Allotments Account.

RESOLVED: That the action taken be noted.

Signed: **1 - 3**
Chair

FIN 28/11 CHEQUES PRESENTED FOR AUTHORISATION

Cheque nos. 609 - 616 from the Current Account and cheque no. 55 from the Allotments Account were presented for authorisation.

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

FIN 29/11 DONATIONS – APPLICATIONS

**(a) County of Durham School Benevolent Fund
(Local Government Act 1972 – Section 137)**

An application had been received from the Honorary Secretary of the County of Durham School Benevolent Fund requesting a donation to enable the fund to continue to help needy pupils in schools.

Their current policy was to award up to a maximum of £35 towards the cost of a pair of shoes and a winter coat for those children whose parents/guardians were in receipt of income support or job-seekers allowance (income-based). Thanks to the generosity of schools, together with support received from Parish Councils, Teaching Unions, grant making Trusts and other sources, the Trustees had been able to make grants to all those pupils who were eligible.

A donation of £105 was made in December 2009.

RECOMMENDED: (i) That a donation of £150 be made to the County of Durham School Benevolent Fund.

(ii) That Durham County Council be requested to provide details of grants given during the last financial year.

**(b) The Meningitis Trust
(Local Government Act 1972 – Section 137)**

An application had been received from Mike Simpson of Langley Grove, Bishop Auckland asking for a donation in aid of the Meningitis Trust.

Mike’s son contracted the disease when he was 11 months old and thanks to the medical staff at the hospital, he made a full recovery and is now a happy and healthy 6 year old.

Mike and four other runners from Crook Athletic Club were going to attempt to run the length of Hadrian’s wall (which extends for 84 miles from coast to coast across the north of England) in under 24 hours in aid of the Meningitis Trust. The Trust worked hard to make parents and professionals aware of the symptoms of meningitis and also supported those who were living with the after effects of this terrible illness.

RECOMMENDED: That a donation of £100.00 be made to the Meningitis Trust.

**FIN 30/11 MEDALLION FOR MAYOR’S CONSORT –
PROPOSED PURCHASE**

The Mayor drew members’ attention to the fact that when he and his wife (his Consort) have attended civic functions, the Consort of other Mayors and Chairmen has been wearing some kind of recognition. The Mayor pointed out that this did not have to be an expensive item just a token of recognition.

Members discussed this provision in detail and it was:

RECOMMENDED: That consideration of this matter be deferred pending further investigation into the cost of providing such an item for the Mayor’s Consort.

Signed: **2 - 3**
Chair

FIN 31/11 MATTERS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

- Provision of plaque commemorating the life and work of Tom McGuinness, Artist, outside the terraced house in Short Street where he used to live

Members considered that whilst this matter could ultimately become a matter for the Finance Committee to discuss, it was:

RECOMMENDED: That this matter be referred to the Strategy Committee for consideration.

Signed:
Chair