

Minutes of the Meeting of the **FINANCE COMMITTEE** held in the Four Clocks Centre, Bishop Auckland on **TUESDAY, 20TH SEPTEMBER 2011** AT 4.00 p.m.

Present: Councillor Anderson (in the Chair) and Councillors Golightly, Laurie, Lee, Lethbridge (ex officio) and Wilson.

Also Present: Linda Goldie (Town Clerk)

FIN 32/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

FIN 33/11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

FIN 34/11 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public in attendance.

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

**FIN 35/11 DEPOSIT ACCOUNT –
BALANCE AS AT 20TH SEPTEMBER 2011**

The balance of the Deposit Account as at 20th September 2011 was £14,015.86.

RECOMMENDED: That the information be noted.

**FIN 36/11 CURRENT ACCOUNT –
BALANCE AS AT 20TH SEPTEMBER 2011**

The balance of the Current Account as at 20th September was £703.27.

RECOMMENDED: That the information be noted.

**FIN 37/11 ALLOTMENTS ACCOUNT –
BALANCE AS AT 20TH SEPTEMBER 2011**

The balance of the Allotments Account as at 20th September 2011 was £12,424.22.

RECOMMENDED: That the information be noted.

**FIN 38/11 MAYOR'S CHARITY ACCOUNT –
BALANCE AS AT 20TH SEPTEMBER 2011**

The balance of the Mayor's Charity Account as at 20th September 2011 was £1,283.89.

RECOMMENDED: That the information be noted.

FIN 39/11 AUTHORISATION OF CHEQUES – DELEGATED POWERS

In accordance with Minute TC 54/09, the Mayor and Chair of Finance had authorised payment of cheque nos. 617 – 636 from the Current Account and cheque nos. 56 - 57 from the Allotments Account.

RESOLVED: That the action taken be noted.

Signed: **1 - 3**
Chair

FIN 40/11 DONATIONS – INFORMATION RECEIVED

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

At the last meeting, the Committee agreed to make a donation of £150 towards the County of Durham School Benevolent Fund. Members were interested to know details of grants given from other organisations towards this fund during the last financial year.

A letter of thanks had been received from the County Council together with the undermentioned information on other donations received:

- 32 from Parish Councils
- 38 from Schools
- 1 from the National Union of Teachers

Grants received ranged from £10- £500 and the total was £5,444.55

RECOMMENDED: That the information be noted.

FIN 41/11 COMMUNITY FUND APPLICATIONS

**(a) Bishop Auckland and District Pipes and Drums
(Local Government Act 1972 – Section 145)**

An application for funding towards the provision of equipment had been received from the Bishop Auckland and District Pipes and Drums in the sum of £500.00.

The group is moving its practice venue to Henknowle Community Centre to be able to attract more local people. They have 17 members in the group with 4 enquiries being received from people in the Bishop Auckland area.

RECOMMENDED: That an amount of £500.00 be given to Bishop Auckland and District Pipes and Drums, subject to receipt of satisfactory paid invoices.

**(b) Woodhouse Close Playgroup
(Local Government Act 1972 – Section 145)**

An application to set up a project to encourage parents to read more with their children had been received from Woodhouse Close Playgroup based in Woodhouse Close Church.

This new project was being set up to encourage adults and children to read more books and one of the famous children's book is "The Hungry Caterpillar" and the funding is required to take the children on a trip to the theatre to see it performed live.

Transport and tickets amount to £500.

RECOMMENDED: That an amount of £500.00 be given to Woodhouse Close Playgroup, subject to receipt of satisfactory paid invoices.

**FIN 42/11 PROPOSED OFFICE RELOCATION
(Minute No. TC 72/11 refers)**

In accordance with the above, enquiries had been made of various suggested office venues. None of these venues were either available or suitable. However, further discussions had taken place with the Bishop Auckland Community Partnership with regard to the possible exchange of offices with the Youth Development Worker.

Signed: **2 - 3**
Chair

A request to this effect was made and the Community Partnership had agreed to the exchange.

The difference in annual rental was approximately £2,500 but this could be reduced if the room could still be used to store the Youth Forum's equipment.

Members discussed the advantages and disadvantages of the proposed exchange of offices and as some members were not familiar with the room in question, it was agreed to inspect the room there and then.

After members had viewed the room further discussion took place with some members expressing concern that the room should be exclusively for the Town Council's use whilst others commented that there was a need for compromise on the question of storage of the Youth Forum's equipment.

RECOMMENDED: That the Bishop Auckland Community Partnership be informed that the Town Council is prepared to exchange offices with the Youth Development Worker but only on the proviso that it is exclusively for the use of Bishop Auckland Town Council with no Youth Forum equipment being stored in the room.

FIN 43/11 BARCLAYS SAVINGS BOND – MATURITY AND REINVESTMENT

The Town Council invested £50,100 in a Barclays Savings Bond in September 2010 at a rate of 2.25% earning gross interest of £1,124.16. This money included £10,000 Capital Budget and £7,500 was earmarked as match funding for an Awards for All bid for lighting at the skate park.

The Bond matured on 2nd September and Barclays had offered a reinvestment Bond (62) at a rate of 1.35% for 9 months.

RECOMMENDED: That the money be reinvested at the rate and duration outlined above.

FIN 44/11 B.A.F.C. - COMMUNITY FOOTBALL – FREE TICKET SCHEME

Bishop Auckland Football Club had submitted a final proposal regarding the free tickets initiative and in order to increase uptake had waited until the new academic year was underway.

A copy of the Action Plan for 2011-2012 Free Match Tickets for Children Scheme had been circulated for information together with details of the previous two seasons schemes.

An amount of £2,500 was included in this year's budget and as the previous two years schemes had proved successful, it was:

RECOMMENDED: That this amount be released to fund the Free Match Tickets for Children Scheme 2011-2012.

At this point Councillor Lethbridge then left the meeting.

FIN 45/11 DOG BAGS

An e-mail had been received from C.D.A.L.C. asking if the Council had a replenishment of dog bags as Great Aycliffe Town Council was happy to place another bulk order to achieve a cheaper price for other Town/Parish Councils.

The Town Council had placed an order in May using this scheme which resulted in an amount of 5,000 being purchased for £42.00

RECOMMENDED: That, in order to encourage dog owners to clean up after their pets, a further bulk order be placed through Great Aycliffe Town Council for 20,000 dog bags.

FIN 46/11 MATTERS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

There were no matters for future discussion.