

Minutes of the Meeting of the **FINANCE COMMITTEE** held in the Four Clocks Centre, Bishop Auckland on **TUESDAY, 17TH JANUARY 2012 AT 4.00 P.M.**

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

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

**FIN 78/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies for absence had been received.

**FIN 79/11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**FIN 80/11 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

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

**FIN 81/11 DEPOSIT ACCOUNT –  
BALANCE AS AT 17TH JANUARY 2012**

The balance of the Deposit Account as at **17th January 2012** was £46,094.51, it being noted that £11,000 was to be invested..

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

**FIN 82/11 CURRENT ACCOUNT –  
BALANCE AS AT 17TH JANUARY 2012**

The balance of the Current Account as at **17th January 2012** was £4,235.13. .

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

**FIN 83/11 ALLOTMENTS ACCOUNT –  
BALANCE AS AT 17TH JANUARY 2012**

The balance of the Allotments Account as at **17th January 2012** was £344.24.

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

**FIN 84/11 MAYOR'S CHARITY ACCOUNT –  
BALANCE AS AT 17TH JANUARY 2012**

The balance of the Mayor's Charity Account as at **31<sup>st</sup> January 2012** was £1,869.61.

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

**FIN 85/11 AUTHORISATION OF CHEQUES – DELEGATED POWERS**

In accordance with Minute TC 54/09, the Mayor and Chair of Finance had authorised payment of cheque nos. 678 – 680 from the Current Account and cheque nos. 74 – 79 from the Allotments Account.

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

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

**FIN 86/11 CHEQUES PRESENTED FOR AUTHORISATION**

Cheque nos. 681 - 684 from the Current Account were presented for authorisation.

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

**FIN 87/11 COMMUNITY FUND – APPLICATIONS**

**(a) Bishop Auckland Young Peoples Community Netball Group  
(Local Government Act 1972 – Section 145) (Min. No. FIN 73/11 refers)**

At the November meeting, an application had been considered from the Bishop Auckland Young Peoples Community Netball Group for £500 towards travel costs i.e. cost of hiring 2 minibuses to the Liverpool World Netball Series for the weekend of 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> November.

However, the Committee recommended that, as the Club had only recently been established, it be informed that the Town Council would prefer to support it in its set up costs.

A resubmitted application had been received and circulated with a request for £500 towards start up costs. As the Club had only recently received one grant so far, no bank statement is available.

**RECOMMENDED:** That an amount of £500 be given to Bishop Auckland Young Peoples Community Netball Group subject to receipt of satisfactory paid invoices and a copy of their first bank statement.

**FIN 88/11 DONATIONS –**

**(a) Michael and Kelly O’Neill on behalf of the R.V.I. Children’s Cancer Unit  
(Local Government Act 1972 – Section 137)**

An application for a donation on behalf of the R.V.I. Children’s Cancer Unit had been received from Michael and Kelly O’Neill with a letter of support from Dr. Kevin P. Windebank, Consultant Paediatrician at the Great North Children’s Hospital, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

The couple had organised a fundraising night at Tindale Workingman’s Club on 24<sup>th</sup> February and had asked for support by way of prizes for the raffle and tombola stalls and also auction prizes.

A copy of the letter had been circulated.

**RECOMMENDED:** That a donation of £100 by way of vouchers to the value of £50, £30 and £20 be given as a raffle prize in order to support the charity event.

**FIN 89/11 ACCEPTANCE OF CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION GIVEN  
BY DURHAM CONSTABULARY**

At the request of John Raw, the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, Councillor Anderson (Chair of the Allotments and Environment Committee) had attended a presentation ceremony at Aykley Heads Police H.Q. on Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> January to receive, from Durham Constabulary, a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of Woodhouse Close and Tindale Allotments Watch Scheme in recognition of valuable contributions to community safety in Co. Durham.

An invitation is to be received shortly from John Raw in order to present the certificate at the Allotments next quarterly meeting.

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

**RECOMMENDED:** That attendance of Councillor Anderson at the presentation at Aykley Heads be authorised as an approved duty and travel expenses be paid.

**FIN 90/11 SPEND AGAINST BUDGET AS AT 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2011**

A copy of the Spend Against Budget as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011 had been circulated for consideration and the undermentioned queries were raised:-

**(a) Train Station Enhancement**

Councillor Laurie referred to the £1,000 under the budget heading Train Station Enhancement and queried whether there were any projects in mind for its use.

The Station Trust had been offered this money but had not come back to the Town Council with any proposals.

Councillor Laurie then referred to the appalling condition of the embankment area between Latherbrush Bridge and the Station. The amount of litter and rubbish and overgrown vegetation was a health hazard and an eyesore and she considered that this money could be used to clean up the area in partnership with the Weardale Railway.

**RECOMMENDED: (i)** That the Bishop Auckland Station Trust be contacted asking if they have now got any proposals for the £1,000 pointing out that if this is not spent before the end of the financial year it will be reallocated elsewhere.

**(ii)** That a letter of complaint regarding the condition of the embankment area of land be sent to the Weardale Railway together with an offer of funding of £1,000 towards it clearing up this eyesore.

**FIN 91/11 MATTERS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION**

There were no matters for future discussion.

Signed: .....  
Chair