

Minutes of the Meeting of the **FINANCE COMMITTEE** held in the Four Clocks Centre, Bishop Auckland on **TUESDAY, 20TH MARCH 2012 AT 4.00 P.M.**

Present: Councillor Anderson (in the Chair) and Councillors Golightly, Laurie and D. Wilson.

Also Present: Linda Goldie (Town Clerk)

FIN 107/12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Lethbridge.

FIN 10812 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

FIN 109/12 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public in attendance.

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

**FIN 110/12 DEPOSIT ACCOUNT –
BALANCE AS AT 20TH MARCH 2012**

The balance of the Deposit Account as at 20th March 2012 was £13,515.30.

RECOMMENDED: That the information be noted.

**FIN 111/12 CURRENT ACCOUNT –
BALANCE AS AT 20TH MARCH 2012**

The balance of the Current Account as at 20th March 2012 was £1,002.64.

RECOMMENDED: That the information be noted.

**FIN 112/12 ALLOTMENTS ACCOUNT –
BALANCE AS AT 20TH MARCH 2012**

The balance of the Allotments Account as at 20th March 2012 was £344.24.

RECOMMENDED: That the information be noted.

**FIN 113/12 MAYOR'S CHARITY ACCOUNT –
BALANCE AS AT 20TH MARCH 2012**

The balance of the Mayor's Charity Account as at 20th March 2012 was £1,774.94.

RECOMMENDED: That the information be noted.

FIN 114/12 AUTHORISATION OF CHEQUES – DELEGATED POWERS

In accordance with Minute TC 54/09, the Mayor and Chair of Finance had authorised payment of cheque nos.700 – 713.

RESOLVED: That the action taken be noted.

Signed: Chair **1 - 3**

FIN 115/12 CHEQUES PRESENTED FOR AUTHORISATION

Cheque nos. 714 & 715 from the Current Account were presented for authorisation. No. 699.

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

FIN 116/12 DONATIONS – APPLICATIONS

**(a) Bishop Auckland St. Mary’s Juniors FC Under 16’s Squad
(Local Government Act 1972 – Section 137)**

An application for a donation had been received from Bishop Auckland St. Mary’s Juniors FC Under 16s squad towards their trip to Barcelona for the annual Barcelona Cup Tournament in which they had an excellent past track record. The cost for each player to attend this event was around £800 and any donation towards this would be greatly appreciated.

A donation of £500 was given in February 2011 towards last year’s tournament.

RECOMMENDED: That £50.00 donation be made to Bishop Auckland St. Mary’s Juniors FC Under 16’s Squad.

**(b) Finchale Training College
(Local Government Act 1972 – Section 137)**

An application for a donation had been received from Finchale Training College to support their current appeal to improve student recreation facilities. The College supported ex-service personnel in need but had also developed over the years to become a leading provider of vocational training and rehabilitation to unemployed adults living with disability.

A donation of £200 was given in July 2010.

RECOMMENDED: That the request be refused.

**(c) Durham Amateur Football Trust
(Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 – Section 19)**

An application for a donation of £400 towards staging the under 14’s annual tournament had been received from the Durham Amateur Football Trust of which Bishop Auckland St. Mary’s Under 14’s Team were part.

An amount of £250 was given in May 2011 towards promoting memorabilia and past football history to schools.

RECOMMENDED: That the request be refused.

FIN 117/12 COMMUNITY FUND – APPLICATIONS

**(a) Cockton Hill Infant School
(Local Government Act 1972 – Section 145)**

An application for funding had been received from Cockton Hill Infant School towards financing the development of an outside story corner in an area of the school yard.

The school would like to provide six individual jumbo wall art story characters to fix onto the three surrounding walls, the cost would be £474.

Signed: Chair..... 2 - 3

RECOMMENDED: That as an amount of £250.00 was awarded to Cockton Hill Infant School Breakfast Club at the last meeting, the application be refused.

FIN 118/12 DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL – PAYROLL PROVISION LEVY

At the moment, Durham County Council provided a payroll service for the Town Council's employees and members free of charge. However, in the current difficult economic climate, it had been decided that in order to continue providing this service, a levy must be charged.

The annual charge for the provision of payroll services was:

- £7.00 per payslip plus VAT.
- An annual increase based on the change in the Retail Price Index for the year to December (published in January) will be levied on the following 1st April and for each successive year of the Agreement.
- An invoice for charges will be issued monthly by the service provider to Bishop Auckland Town Council

In the first year, the charge would be from July 2012 to March 2013 – 12 months service for 9 months charges.

A Service Level Agreement in respect of the payroll service had been prepared and, as a result of the deadline date of 19th March for its return, the Mayor was requested to sign the agreement.

RECOMMENDED: (i) That the action of the Mayor in signing the Service Level Agreement be approved.

(ii) That the charges be noted.

FIN 119/12 BISHOP AUCKLAND TOWN TEAM - EVENTS

Arising out of the Public Meeting held on 12th March, the Bishop Auckland Town Team had now been established . A Working Party had also been set up to look into organising events, especially with regard to the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations and the Olympic Torch.

The Town Council had not allocated any specific funding for the forthcoming celebrations in its 2012/2013 budget. However, it needed to be seen to be involved in the activities and to that end, funding needed to be found. An amount of £2,000 was already in an 'Events' Budget Heading set up in 2010/11 which had not been used and could be used to support the events and activities envisaged.

RECOMMENDED: (i) That the amount of £2,000.00 in the 'Events Budget' be allocated for use by the Town Team for funding forthcoming events e.g. the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations and the Olympic Torch Relay.

(ii) That £1,200.00 from the V.A.T. reimbursement be also allocated for use by the Town Team.

Signed:
Chair