

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

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

Also Present: Linda Goldie (Town Clerk)

FIN 120/12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Golightly.

FIN 121/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

FIN 122/12 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public in attendance.

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

**FIN 123/12 DEPOSIT ACCOUNT –
BALANCE AS AT 17TH APRIL 2012**

The balance of the Deposit Account as at 17th April 2012 was £122,763.89.

RECOMMENDED: That the information be noted.

**FIN 124/12 CURRENT ACCOUNT –
BALANCE AS AT 17TH APRIL 2012**

The balance of the Current Account as at 17th April 2012 was £10,231.96.

RECOMMENDED: That the information be noted.

**FIN 125/12 ALLOTMENTS ACCOUNT –
BALANCE AS AT 17TH APRIL 2012**

The balance of the Allotments Account as at 17th April 2012 was £4,219.40.

RECOMMENDED: That the information be noted.

**FIN 126/12 MAYOR'S CHARITY ACCOUNT –
BALANCE AS AT 17TH APRIL 2012**

The balance of the Mayor's Charity Account as at 17th April 2012 was £1,808.94.

RECOMMENDED: That the information be noted.

FIN 127/12 AUTHORISATION OF CHEQUES – DELEGATED POWERS

In accordance with Minute TC 54/09, the Mayor and Chair of Finance had authorised payment of cheque nos. 716 – 722 from the Current Account and 80 – 87 from the Allotments Account.

RESOLVED: That the action taken be noted.

Signed: Chair **1 - 4**

FIN 128/12 CHEQUES PRESENTED FOR AUTHORISATION

Cheque nos. 723 – 725 from the Current Account were presented for authorisation.

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

FIN 129/12 DONATIONS – APPLICATIONS

**(a) St. Johns Catholic School and Sixth Form Centre – Project Peru
(Local Government Act 1972 – Section 137)**

An application for a donation had been received from students of St. Johns Catholic School and Sixth Form Centre towards their fourth visit to Peru in aid of “Project Peru”.

Twenty-five students and five members of staff would travel on 4th July and the expedition would involve a local building development project in partnership with local people. Through contact with the community of San Pedro Pescador Parish they were establishing which projects they would like to work on.

Discussion so far had outlined a need for a food kitchen and work in the local school.

Each student needed to raise £1,600 as well as helping to raise funds for the project itself.

RECOMMENDED: That £100.00 donation be made to St. Johns Catholic School and Sixth Form Centre.

FIN 130/12 COMMUNITY FUND – APPLICATION

**(a) Bishop Auckland Tennis Club
(Local Government Act 1976 – Section 19)**

An application for funding had been received from Bishop Auckland Tennis club towards resurfacing the tennis courts and repair of fencing.

The tennis courts could be used free of charge by the public except for tennis club sessions.

A total of £16,500 was required and they had secured donations amounting to £11,725 and they were trying to raise the outstanding balance of £4,835.

RECOMMENDED: That an amount of £500.00 be granted to Bishop Auckland Tennis Club subject to receipt of satisfactory paid invoices.

FIN 131/12 COMMUNITY FUND – LETTER OF THANKS –

(a) Wear Valley Arthritis Care Support Group

A letter had been received from the Wear Valley Arthritis Care Support Group thanking the Town Council for the generous donation of £250 which they intended to use towards advertising the work that it does for people who have at least one of the many (over 200) forms of arthritis.

RECOMMENDED: That the information be noted.

Signed: 2 – 4
Chair

**FIN 132/12 BUS STATION TOILETS, BISHOP AUCKLAND –
REFURBISHMENT
(Minute TC 172/12 refers)**

As mentioned at the Town Council meeting on 28th February, Durham County Council had stated that it was prepared to carry out minor improvement works to the bus station toilets.

The costs for the floor alone amounted to £6,000, then there was the painting, hand driers, soap dispensers and air vents. The building department hold the budget for repairs for WCs and have said that they would replace some floor tiles, and not all, if DCC have to fund the whole project.

RECOMMENDED: That the County Council be informed that the Town Council is willing to contribute £1,500.00 towards the refurbishment of these toilets.

FIN 133/12 DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS –

(a) Provision of Park Bench – Town Recreation Ground

Members thought it a good idea if the Town Council provided a park bench in the Town Recreation Ground incorporating a commemorative plaque in order to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

RECOMMENDED: That an amount of up to £1,000.00 be allocated for the provision of a recycled plastic vandal-proof park bench and a commemorative plaque.

(b) The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal

Vaughtons were manufacturing a commemorative medal to mark this most important part of our heritage and were specifically offering the Commemorative medal for sale to Local Government and schools.

A sample of the medal had been received and had offered for sale at £5.00 each plus £2.33 postage, packing and VAT.

RECOMMENDED: That no medals be purchased.

(c) Provision of Bunting and Pennants

As part of the Diamond Jubilee and the Olympic Torch celebrations, it was felt that the Town Council could support the town by way of purchasing bunting and lending it out to the traders to encourage them to decorate their premises. This bunting could then be stored and used for other occasions.

The Town Clerk reported that she had been looking into the possibility of providing Union Jack pennants to be hung on the 17 lampposts/flagpoles in Newgate Street and had been sourcing alternative funding from various traders and from the Members Initiative Fund. However, with this funding, there was still a shortfall to be able to carry out this project.

Members agreed that it was a good idea for the Town Council to support both of these purchases.

RECOMMENDED: (i) That an amount of up to £1,800 be provided for the purchase of bunting and an amount of £2,000 be provided towards the purchase and erection of the 17 pennants and these amounts be taken from the 2011/2012 underspend in the Parks and Environmental Support Budget Heading.

(i) That, Financial Regulation 11.1 (b) be waived to enable a price to be negotiated without competition in view of the urgency and timescale in which to place these orders.

Signed:

Chair:

FIN 134/12 IN PRIVATE

In accordance with the provisions of Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, as amended by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council excluded the press and public for the remaining items on the agenda by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted since publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest.

**FIN 135/12 PART-TIME ADMIN ASSISTANT – REQUEST FOR
BACKDATING OF PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS – DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL –
LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME**

Members considered a letter from the Part-time Admin Assistant in the Town Clerk’s Office, requesting the Council to backdate his pension contributions to the Local Government Pension Scheme and further details were submitted thereon.

RECOMMENDED: (i) That, due to the special nature of the circumstances, the request for pension contributions to be backdated be agreed.

(ii) That the Town Council will not agree to any further requests for backdated contributions from future employees.

Signed:

Chair: