

Minutes of the Meeting of the **FINANCE COMMITTEE** held in the Four Clocks Centre, Bishop Auckland on **TUESDAY, 19TH JUNE 2012 AT 4.00 P.M.**

Present: Councillors Golightly, Kay, Laurie, Lee and D. Wilson.

Also Present: Linda Goldie (Town Clerk).

FIN 1/12 ELECTION OF CHAIR

It was moved by Councillor Wilson and seconded by Councillor Golightly that Councillor Alan Anderson be elected Chair of the Finance Committee for the ensuing year.

In the absence of Councillor Anderson, Councillor Wilson took the Chair.

FIN 2/12 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

It was moved by Councillor Lee and seconded by Councillor Laurie that Councillor Wilson be appointed Vice-Chair of the Finance Committee for the ensuing year.

FIN 3/12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Anderson.

FIN 4/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

FIN 5/12 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public in attendance.

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

**FIN 6/12 DEPOSIT ACCOUNT –
BALANCE AS AT 19TH JUNE 2012**

The balance of the Deposit Account as at **19th June 2012** was £93,741.65.

**FIN 7/12 CURRENT ACCOUNT –
BALANCE AS AT 19TH JUNE 2012**

The balance of the Current Account as at **19th June 2012** was £9,811.27.

**FIN 8/12 ALLOTMENTS ACCOUNT –
BALANCE AS AT 19TH JUNE 2012**

The balance of the Allotments Account as at **19th June 2012** was £13,126.68.

**FIN 9/12 MAYOR'S CHARITY ACCOUNT –
BALANCE AS AT 19TH JUNE 2012**

The balance of the Mayor's Charity Account as at **19th June 2012** was £13.79

Signed:

Chair:

FIN 10/12 AUTHORISATION OF CHEQUES – DELEGATED POWERS

In accordance with Delegated Powers, the Mayor and Chair of Finance had authorised payment of cheque nos. 734 – 765 from the Current Account and cheque nos. 16 & 17 from the Mayor’s Charity Account.

RECOMMENDED: That the action taken be confirmed.

FIN 11/12 CHEQUES PRESENTED FOR AUTHORISATION

Cheques nos. 766 – 772 from the Current Account and cheque nos. 90 & 91 from the Allotments account were presented for authorisation.

RECOMMENDED: That the abovementioned cheques be authorised for payment.

FIN 12/12 DONATION – APPLICATION

**(a) Daisy Arts – Arts Programme 2012/2013
(Local Government Act 1972 – Section 145)**

An application for a donation had been received from Jane Crawford of Daisy Arts requesting help to support a local Arts Festival and a copy of the application had been circulated. The Committee agreed that Jane had put a lot of effort into the community and should be supported.

RECOMMENDED: (i) That a donation of £200.00 be made to Daisy Arts subject to receipt of a satisfactory bank statement.

(ii) That discussions take place with Daisy Arts as to the possibility of putting on a display of some of the artwork into an empty shop in the town.

**FIN 13/12 MANAGING SICKNESS ABSENCE TRAINING COURSE –
7TH JUNE 2012 – APPROVED DUTY**

Councillor Anderson had been authorised to attend the above training course.

RECOMMENDED: That the training course be authorised as an approved duty.

**FIN 14/12 GROUNDWORK NORTH EAST –
CHANGES TO SERVICE DELIVERY AGREEMENT**

In September 2011 the Town Council entered into a Service Level Agreement with Groundwork North East with the aim of building sustainable communities through joint environmental action in and around Bishop Auckland.

Groundwork North East was responsible for work being delivered alternating between a 3 day and a 2 day per week split with the team carrying out a variety of work as agreed.

The team comprises of one Supervisor (whose services the Town Council pays £15,000 a year) and up to 5 trainees.

However, the employment of these apprentices that were funded by East Durham Partnership and who had worked with the Supervisor over the past six months had now come to an end and the funding to pay for apprentices was no longer available.

Signed:

Chair:

At the moment, Groundwork North East employed the Supervisor and one former apprentice on the Town Council's Green Team but were not able to financially support an apprenticeship scheme as well.

Groundwork North East was asking whether the Town Council could support the cost of employing one apprentice on the minimum apprenticeship wage for one year at a cost of £5,550.

The Town Clerk drew attention to one of the priorities of the AAP which covered Employment and Jobs to deliver an Apprenticeship programme aimed at the young people of the AAP area.

RECOMMENDED: (i) That Groundwork North East be informed that the Committee note with disappointment that this is a change to the current delivery model and that the Town Council is unable to employ one apprentice as this cost had not been budgeted for.

(ii) That Groundwork North East be informed of the AAP priority relating to Employment and Jobs with a view to them obtaining an apprentice to work alongside the Supervisor and his assistant.

(iii) That possible alternative employment be sought from the Probation Service.

Signed:

Chair: