

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

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

Also Present: Councillor Lethbridge and Linda Goldie (Town Clerk).

FIN 68/12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Laurie.

FIN 69/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Golightly declared an interest in the Community Fund application from Venture Out – Cultivate 4 Life as she is a member of the Community Partnership Board.

FIN 70/12 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public in attendance.

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

**FIN 71/12 DEPOSIT ACCOUNT –
BALANCE AS AT 20TH NOVEMBER 2012**

The balance of the Deposit Account as at **20TH NOVEMBER 2012** was £35,340.26.

**FIN 72/12 CURRENT ACCOUNT –
BALANCE AS AT 20TH NOVEMBER 2012**

The balance of the Current Account as at **20TH NOVEMBER 2012** was £2,803.66.

**FIN 73/12 ALLOTMENTS ACCOUNT –
BALANCE AS AT 20TH NOVEMBER 2012**

The balance of the Allotments Account as at **20TH NOVEMBER 2012** was £8,826.99

**FIN 74/12 MAYOR'S CHARITY ACCOUNT –
BALANCE AS AT 20TH NOVEMBER 2012**

The balance of the Mayor's Charity Account as at **20TH NOVEMBER 2012** was £468.79.

FIN 75/12 AUTHORISATION OF CHEQUES – DELEGATED POWERS

In accordance with Delegated Powers, the Mayor and Chair of Finance had authorised payment of cheque nos. 830 – 835 from the Current Account and cheque nos. 107 – 111 from the Allotments Account.

RECOMMENDED: That the action taken be confirmed.

Signed:
Chair

FIN 76/12 DONATION – APPLICATION

(a) Bishop Auckland Cluster of Schools – St. Anne’s C.E. Primary School

An application for funding had been received from the Bishop Auckland Cluster of Schools asking for a donation towards a shortfall in the funding towards the provision of a multiple use games area. The facility would be used by the whole community and increase participation in a range of sporting activities including netball and football.

A copy of the application had being circulated.

The Town Clerk informed members that since receipt of the letter she had spoken to the Business Manager who had advised her that the application was to be withdrawn as the school was funding the shortfall.

RECOMMENDED: That the information be noted

FIN 77/12 DONATION – LETTER OF THANKS

A letter had been received from the Bishop Press thanking the Town Council for the £2,000 donation.

RECOMMENDED: That the information be noted.

FIN 78/12 COMMUNITY FUND – APPLICATION

(a) Venture Out – Cultivate 4 Life

An application for an amount of £500 had been received from Venture Out – Cultivate 4 Life Project towards replacement fencing and new entrance gate, portaloo and new outbuilding.

A copy of the application had being circulated.

The Chairman drew member’s attention that as this application related to a community project being carried out on the Town Council’s allotments at Woodhouse Close, any money recommended, could come out of the Allotments Account.

RECOMMENDED: That an amount of £300 be given to the Venture Out – Cultivate 4 Life Project and this amount be taken from the Allotments Account.

FIN 79/12 MATTERS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

There were no matters raised for future discussion.

FIN 80/12 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

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 item on the agenda by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted since publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest.

Signed:
Chair

FIN 81/12 BUDGET FOR 2013/2014 – SECOND DRAFT V2

A copy of a Second Draft V2 of the Budget for 2013/2014 had been circulated.

Since this draft had been prepared, members were made aware of the following:

- Bishop Auckland Community Partnership – Rent increase of 8% (£619 per year)
- Bishop Auckland Food Festival 2013 – Request for additional funding from D.C.C.
- Bishop Auckland Music Festival 2013 – Request for additional funding from B.A. College.

After a lengthy discussion, members agreed that it was impossible to reduce the budget without detrimental effect to the services which the Town Council delivers.

RECOMMENDED: (i) That the rent increase from the Bishop Auckland Community Partnership be accepted.

(ii) That Durham County Council be informed that, unfortunately, the Town Council cannot increase its sponsorship of the Bishop Auckland Food Festival for 2013 because of budgetary restrictions and an awareness of a further increase of the precept

(iii) That Bishop Auckland College be informed that, unfortunately, the Town Council cannot increase its sponsorship of the Bishop Auckland Music & Arts Festival 2013 because of budgetary restrictions and an awareness of a further increase of the precept

(iv) That, in view of the reduction of the workforce from Groundwork relating to the Town Council's Parks & Environmental Support Team, a new Service Delivery Agreement be entered into for the provision of one Supervisor and two apprentices for one day a week (Monday) at a cost of £8,200 p.a.

(v) That, in view of this reduction of the workforce, the County Council be informed that the Town Council is unable to renew its Winter Maintenance Agreement.

(vi) That the budget, as circulated, remain unaltered and the Second Draft V3 be submitted to full Council on 27th December for approval.

Note: Councillor June Lee requested that her disapproval to the percentage increase in the proposed budget be noted.

Signed:
Chair