

Minutes of the Meeting of the **FINANCE COMMITTEE** held in the Four Clocks Centre, Bishop Auckland on **TUESDAY, 22<sup>ND</sup> JANUARY 2013 AT 4.00 P.M.**

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

**Also Present:** David Anderson (Town Clerk).

**FIN 82/12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Kay and Lee.

**FIN 83/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were submitted.

**FIN 84/12 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

**REPORT OF TOWN CLERK**

**FIN 85/12 DEPOSIT ACCOUNT – BALANCE AS AT 22<sup>ND</sup> JANUARY 2013**

The balance of the Deposit Account as at 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2013 was £42,921.61.

**FIN 86/12 CURRENT ACCOUNT – BALANCE AS AT 22<sup>ND</sup> JANUARY 2013**

The balance of the Current Account as at 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2013 was £10,269.50.

**FIN 87/12 ALLOTMENTS ACCOUNT – BALANCE AS AT 22<sup>ND</sup> JANUARY 2013**

The balance of the Allotments Account as at 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2013 was £6,434.44

**FIN 88/12 MAYOR'S CHARITY ACCOUNT – BALANCE AS AT 22<sup>ND</sup> JANUARY 2013**

The balance of the Mayor's Charity Account as at 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2013 was £568.79.

**FIN 89/12 AUTHORISATION OF CHEQUES – DELEGATED POWERS**

In accordance with Delegated Powers, the Mayor and Chair of Finance had authorised payment of cheque nos. 836 - 854 from the Current Account and cheque nos. 112 – 119 from the Allotments Account as detailed in the report.

**RECOMMENDED:** That the action taken be confirmed.

**FIN 90/12 CHEQUES PRESENTED FOR AUTHORISATION**

Cheque nos. 855 – 856 were presented for authorisation.

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

**FIN 91/12 APPLICATIONS FOR DONATIONS**

Consideration was given to applications for donations from the following organisations:-

- (a) Holocaust Memorial Day 2013 Service, Durham Cathedral, Education Support Services, Durham County Council
- (b) Durham Miners Association
- (c) County of Durham School Benevolent Fund
- (d) Bishop Auckland Schools Football Association
- (e) Great North Air Ambulance

The Committee gave careful consideration to the above applications, however in the light of budget constraints were unable to support all of them.

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

- RECOMMENDED:**
1. That a donation of £24.00 be made to the Durham Miners Association to assist with costs associated with the Durham Miners' Gala.
  2. That a donation of £35.00 be made to the County of Durham School Benevolent Fund to assist with the purchase of winter coats and shoes for needy children in County Durham.
  3. That a donation of £50.00 be made from 2013/14 budget to the Great North Air Ambulance to assist with running costs.
  4. That no donation be made to the Holocaust Memorial Day 2013 Service and the Bishop Auckland Schools Football Association due to budget constraints.

**FIN 92/12 REGISTRATION OF A '.GOV.UK' WEB DOMAIN**

Consideration was given to the registration of a '.gov.uk' web domain.

It was noted that it was usual for government websites and email addresses to have a '.gov.uk' suffix. This would give users of the website and recipients of emails confidence that they were dealing with a bona fide local governmental organisation.

The Town Council currently had [www.bishopaucklandtowncouncil.co.uk](http://www.bishopaucklandtowncouncil.co.uk) as its web address, although this diverts to the website hosted by the County Council. Town Council email addresses were associated with the current broadband supplier and end in @btconnect.com.

It was suggested that the Council register [www.bishopauckland.gov.uk](http://www.bishopauckland.gov.uk) (or similar) as its domain name and use this as its web address. The domain name could then also be used for email addresses, e.g. [david.anderson@bishopauckland.gov.uk](mailto:david.anderson@bishopauckland.gov.uk). In addition to authenticating the status of the Council, this would also enable the Council to review its broadband supplier to ensure efficiencies are maintained.

The cost of registration was £109 (excluding VAT) for the first two years. Renewal of the registration would cost £69 (excluding VAT) thereafter for a further two year period.

**RECOMMENDED:** That the Council register [www.bishopauckland.gov.uk](http://www.bishopauckland.gov.uk) (or similar) as its domain name and the associated funding be approved.

**FIN 93/12 SPEND AGAINST BUDGET AS AT 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2012**

The spend against budget as at the end of quarter 3 (31<sup>st</sup> December 2012) was considered and noted.

**RECOMMENDED:** That the position as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012 be noted.

Signed: .....  
Chair