

Minutes of the Meeting of the **FINANCE COMMITTEE** held in the Four Clocks Centre, Bishop Auckland on **TUESDAY, 25th FEBRUARY 2014 AT 4.00 P.M.**

Present: Councillor Anderson (Chairman) and Councillors, Brownson, Golightly, and S. Zair

Also Present: David Anderson (Town Clerk).

FIN.67/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Blackburn and Wilson

FIN.68/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Golightly declared an interest in respect of an application for financial assistance submitted by Culture 4 Life considered under Item No. 4 Applications for Community Grants and Donations (Minute No. FIN.74/13 refers). Councillor Golightly took no part in the discussion or voting on this application.

FIN.69/13 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public in attendance.

REPORT OF TOWN CLERK

FIN.70/13 ACCOUNT BALANCES AS AT 25th FEBRUARY 2014

The Town Clerk reported account balances as follows:-

PSDF	£41,097.57
Deposit Account	£4,170.32
Current Account	£1,061.57
Allotments Account	£0
Mayors Charity Account	£850.03

RECOMMENDED: That the information be noted.

FIN.71/13 AUTHORISATION OF CHEQUES – DELEGATED POWERS

In accordance with Delegated Powers, the Mayor and Chair of Finance had authorised payment of cheques detailed in the report.

RECOMMENDED: That the action taken be confirmed.

FIN.72/13 CHEQUES PRESENTED FOR AUTHORISATION

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk detailing cheques presented for authorisation.

RECOMMENDED: That payments detailed in the report be authorised.

FIN.73/13 COUNCIL TAX 2014/15

Members noted that after submitting the Council Tax precept request notification had been received that the Council Tax Base and LCTS Grant has been amended slightly in the Town Council's/taxpayers favour.

Adjustments were therefore been made to the precept request that slightly reduced the Council Tax required by the Town Council. This would now be £36.23 rather than £36.35, a reduction of 12p for the year (Band D). An amended Medium Term Financial Plan was considered.

Signed:
Chair

As the amended figures were not significant and given the tight timescales involved, this course of action was agreed with the Mayor and Chairman of the Finance Committee.

In addition as the Council's precept is over £140,000 Durham County Council required a breakdown of gross and net expenditure into categories of 'Recreation' and 'Other'. Members noted the breakdown for 2014/15 and the comparison with 2013/14.

RECOMMENDED: That the information be noted and the action of the Mayor and Chairman of the Finance Committee be endorsed.

FIN.74/13 APPLICATIONS FOR COMMUNITY GRANTS AND DONATIONS

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

- a. Durham Miners' Association
- b. Cultivate 4 Life
- c. S.A.S. Taekwondo

- RECOMMENDED:**
1. That a donation of £24 be made to Friends of Durham Miners' Gala in relation to the application from Durham Miners' Association. (Section 145 Local Government Act 1972)
 2. That a donation of £300 be made to Cultivate 4 Life to assist with the purchase of equipment.
 3. That the application from S.A.S. Taekwondo be deferred and further information be requested about the application.

(N.B. All donations made under Section 137 of the Local Government Act unless otherwise stated).