

Minutes of the Meeting of the **FINANCE COMMITTEE** held in the Four Clocks Centre, Bishop Auckland on **TUESDAY, 21ST OCTOBER 2014 AT 4.00 P.M.**

Present: Councillor Anderson (Chair) and Councillors Brownson, Blackburn, Golightly, Wilson and S. Zair.

Also Present: David Anderson (Town Clerk)

FIN.18/14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All Members were present

FIN.19/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Blackburn, Golightly and S. Zair declared an interest in respect of Item no. 4 (6) b 'Community Fund Application, Bishop Auckland Community Partnership, Four Clocks Club' and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

Councillor Brownson declared an interest in respect of item no Item no. 4 (7) 'Wannasee Music Festival 2015' and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

FIN.20/14 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public in attendance.

REPORT OF TOWN CLERK

FIN.21/14 ACCOUNT BALANCES AS AT 21ST OCTOBER 2014

The Town Clerk reported account balances as follows:-

PSDF	£151,847.04
Deposit Account	£7,791.79
Current Account	£2,466.22
Allotments Account	£0
Mayors Charity Account	£1,141.19

RECOMMENDED: That the information be noted.

FIN.22/14 INVESTMENTS

A schedule detailing investments as at 21st October 2014 was considered and noted.

RECOMMENDED: That investments as at 21st October 2014 be noted.

FIN.23/14 SPEND AGAINST BUDGET AS AT 30TH SEPTEMBER 2014 (QUARTER 2)

The spend against budget as at 30th September 2014 (Quarter 2) was considered and noted.

RECOMMENDED: That the position as at 30th September 2014 be noted.

FIN.24/14 AUTHORISATION OF CHEQUES – DELEGATED POWERS

In accordance with Delegated Powers, payments totalling £29,491.28 had been authorised as detailed in the report. Members noted that the previous meeting had been inquorate and therefore all business was deferred to the October meeting. The schedule therefore included payments from July 2014 to October 2014.

RECOMMENDED: That the action taken be confirmed.

Signed:
Chair

FIN.25/14 CHEQUES PRESENTED FOR AUTHORISATION

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk detailing cheques presented for authorisation totalling £30

RECOMMENDED: That payments detailed in the report be authorised.

FIN.26/14 LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME GRANT

Members considered an updated forecast of Local Council Tax Support Scheme Grant for the period 2015/16 to 2017/18 provided by Durham County Council. The figures were not to be used for final budget setting as it included a number of forecasts and assumptions on Government policy, but were to be used for budget planning purposes.

Durham County Council had also issued a provisional Council Tax Base for 2015/16 which forecasts an increase of 23.2, (from 3,920.2 to 3,943.4).

Members noted the affect on the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan which had been updated to take into account the latest forecasts.

RECOMMENDED: That the information be noted.

FIN.27/14 APPLICATIONS FOR COMMUNITY GRANTS AND DONATIONS

Members considered applications for donations from the following organisations:-

- a. The Friendship Coffee Club
- b. Bishop Auckland Community Partnership, Four Clocks Club

- RECOMMENDED:**
- 1. That a donation of £205 be made to Bishop Auckland Community Partnership, Four Clocks Club. (Local Government Act 1972, s145)
 - 2. That no donation be made to The Friendship Coffee Club as it was not properly constituted and did not have a bank account.

FIN.28/14 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 do now exclude 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.

FIN.29/14 WANNASEE FESTIVAL 2015

Council, at its meeting held on 16th September 2014, agreed in principle to make a financial contribution to an additional night at the Wannasee Festival and referred consideration of the amount to Finance Committee. (Minute TC.82/14 refers).

The additional night, which could feature local bands, the winners of a battle of the bands competition and possibly a headline band, would take the place of the Music Festival at the College, which was no longer feasible.

Signed:
Chair

A cost breakdown for the additional night had been provided by Wannasee. Detailed consideration was given to the contribution to the Festival.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That the Town Council make a financial contribution to the Wannasee Festival 2015, 2016 and 2017 as detailed in the report, which can be accommodated within the Medium Term Financial Plan, subject to:
 - a. The Friday evening not being financially self sustaining. In the event of the Friday evening becoming financially self sustaining the Council would not contribute financially.
 - b. Wannasee reporting to Council on the financial outturn and give general feedback on each event.
 - b. Wannasee agreeing to support the Mayor's chosen charity at each event.
 - c. A shuttle bus operates from the event site to the Town Centre at regular intervals on Festival weekends.
 2. That the Clerk of the Council, in consultation with the Chairman of Finance, be delegated authority to agree the suitable operating schedule.
 3. The Town Council will not be responsible for any further liability, financial or otherwise.

Signed:
Chair