

Minutes of the Meeting of the **FINANCE COMMITTEE** held in the Four Clocks Centre, Bishop Auckland on **TUESDAY, 1ST MARCH 2016 AT 5.00 P.M.**

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

Also Present: Sheila Horner (Assistant Town Clerk) and Councillors Fleming and Lethbridge

FIN.45/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Race.

FIN.46/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were submitted.

FIN.47/15 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public in attendance.

REPORT OF TOWN CLERK

FIN.48/15 ACCOUNT BALANCES AS AT 20TH OCTOBER 2015

The Town Clerk reported account balances as follows:-

Public Sector Deposit Fund	£160,913.60
Deposit Account	£10,003.08
Current Account	£5,826.59
Mayors Charity Account	£5,242.27

RECOMMENDED: That the information be noted.

FIN.49/15 AUTHORISATION OF CHEQUES – DELEGATED POWERS

In accordance with delegated powers, payments totalling the amounts below had been made as detailed in the report:-

Current Account	£24,325.88
Mayor's Account	390.00

RECOMMENDED: That the action taken be confirmed.

FIN.50/15 CHEQUES PRESENTED FOR AUTHORISATION

Members noted that there were no cheques presented for authorisation.

RECOMMENDED: That the information be noted.

FIN.51/15 SMALLER AUTHORITIES AUDIT APPOINTMENTS

Consideration was given a report setting out the new regime regarding the appointment of external auditors. (For copy see file of Minutes).

Members noted that the Town Council could opt out of the Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments Ltd (SAAA) appointing an external auditor, but if it did so it would have to establish its own Audit Panel to procure external audit services.

RECOMMENDED: That the Town Council do not opt out of the SAAA appointing its external auditor.

Signed:
Chair

FIN.52/15 DURHAM MINERS ASSOCIATION

Consideration was given to a request from Durham Miners Association for the Council to support the Durham Miners Gala by taking out an advert in the Gala Souvenir Brochure. (For copy see file of Minutes).

RECOMMENDED: That the Town Council supports the Miners Gala by taking a 'Message of support'.

FIN.53/15 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 items 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.54/15 LIGHTFOOT INSTITUTE

Consideration was given to a report updating Members on progress with regard to the appointment of an architectural practice to undertake work associated with the purchase and renovation of the Lightfoot Institute. (For copy see file of Minutes).

Careful consideration was given to quotations received from three invited architectural practises to undertake the necessary work.

RESOLVED: That PlanArch be appointed to undertake work associated with the purchase and renovation of the Lightfoot Institute.