

Minutes of the Meeting of the **FINANCE COMMITTEE** held in the Four Clocks Centre, Bishop Auckland on **TUESDAY, 5TH APRIL 2016 AT 5.00 P.M.**

Present: Councillor Anderson (Chairman) and Councillors Blackburn, Brownson and Golightly

Also Present: Councillors Fleming and Lethbridge

FIN.55/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Race, Wilson and S Zair

FIN.56/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Blackburn and Golightly declared an 'other registerable interest' in respect of cheque number 1278 (Item No 3a) and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

Councillors Fleming and Lethbridge declared an 'other registerable interest' in respect of Item No 4.4 'Wear Rivers Trust: River Gaulness for People Project' and took no part in the voting thereon. (N.B. Councillor Lethbridge left the meeting before discussion of this item).

FIN.57/15 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public in attendance.

REPORT OF TOWN CLERK

FIN.58/15 ACCOUNT BALANCES AS AT 5TH APRIL 2016

The Town Clerk reported account balances as follows:-

Public Sector Deposit Fund	£150,978.98
Deposit Account	£17,219.60
Current Account	£2,818.62
Mayors Charity Account	£7,578.56

Members also noted a schedule detailing available funds as at 31st March 2016.

RECOMMENDED: That the information be noted.

FIN.59/15 PROVISIONAL OUTTURN 2015/16

A schedule detailing the provisional outturn for 2015/16 was circulated and considered. It was noted that the provisional outturn would be subject to a bank reconciliation for March 2016 and any comments and recommendations made by the Internal Auditor.

RECOMMENDED: That the provisional outturn be noted.

FIN.60/15 AUTHORISATION OF CHEQUES – DELEGATED POWERS

In accordance with delegated powers, payments totalling £11,961.94 had been made from the current account as detailed in the report.

RECOMMENDED: That the action taken be confirmed.

N.B. Councillor Lethbridge left the meeting following the conclusion of this item to attend another meeting.

Signed:
Chair

FIN.61/15 CHEQUES PRESENTED FOR AUTHORISATION

Members noted that there were no cheques presented for authorisation.

RECOMMENDED: That the information be noted.

FIN.62/15 WEAR RIVERS TRUST: RIVER GAUNLESS FOR PEOPLE PROJECT

Consideration was given a report with regard to a request from Wear Rivers Trust for the Town Council to make a financial contribution to the project. (For copy see file of Minutes).

Members noted that the overall cost of the scheme was £720,831. An application had been made to the Heritage Lottery Fund for £499,500. The balance of £221,331 would be made up of either donations or in kind contributions.

A contribution of £500 had been requested by the Trust, who had commented that it would be a powerful demonstration of a strong commitment, underscoring the letter of support, and would carry more weight than the actual monetary value.

Detailed consideration was given to the merits of the project.

RECOMMENDED: That a contribution of £500 be made to the project, subject to the HLF application being successful.