

Minutes of the Meeting of the **FINANCE COMMITTEE** held in the Four Clocks Centre, Bishop Auckland on **TUESDAY, 5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2017 AT 5.00 P.M.**

**Present:** Councillor Wilson (Chairman) and Councillors Allen, Blackburn, Chappell, Tucker and S. Zair.

**Also Present:** Councillor Fleming and David Anderson (Town Clerk)

**FIN.35/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Brownson

**FIN.36/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Blackburn declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of Item No 4.3 'Citizens Advice County Durham – Funding Request' and left the meeting for the duration of discussion or voting thereon.

Councillors Allen and Blackburn declared an 'other registerable interest' in respect of Item No 4.7 'Applications for Community Fund and Donations' in respect of applications from the Four Clocks Club (BACP) and Time for Toddlers (BATC) and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

Councillor Fleming declared an 'other non-registerable interest' in respect of Item No 4.7 'Applications for Community Fund and Donations' in respect of an application from the Crisis, Welfare and Intervention Project, Woodhouse Community Centre and took no part in the voting thereon.

Councillors Chappell, Fleming and S. Zair declared an 'other non-registerable interest' in respect of Item No 4.7 'Applications for Community Fund and Donations' in respect of applications from Bishop Auckland Fellowship of Christian Churches and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

**FIN.37/17 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

**REPORT OF TOWN CLERK**

**FIN.38/17 ACCOUNT BALANCES AS AT 5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2017**

The Town Clerk reported account balances as follows:-

<b>Account</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Lloyds Deposit Account	£19,137.33
Lloyds Current Account	£2,735.70
Lloyds Mayors Charity Account	£2,150.28
Darlington Building Society	£77,326.21
Nationwide	£98,260.75
Santander	£100,000.00

**RECOMMENDED:** That the information be noted.

**FIN.39/17 AUTHORISATION OF CHEQUES – DELEGATED POWERS**

In accordance with delegated powers, payments totalling the amounts below had been made as detailed in the report. (For copy see file of Minutes).

Current Account £20,774.21

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

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

**FIN.40/17 CHEQUES PRESENTED FOR AUTHORISATION**

It was noted that there were no cheques presented for authorisation.

**RECOMMENDED:** That the information be noted

**FIN.41/17 CITIZENS ADVICE COUNTY DURHAM – FUNDING REQUEST**

Consideration was given to a report in relation to a funding request from Citizens Advice County Durham. (For copy see file of Minutes).

The Town Council had considered the request following a presentation by the Deputy Chief Executive at its meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> October and had unanimously supported making a donation. Consideration of the amount to be donated had been deferred to the Finance Committee.

- RECOMMENDED:**
1. That a donation of £2,000 be made to Citizens Advice County Durham in the current financial year.
  2. That provision be made in the budget for £3,000 to be donated in subsequent years, the amount to be reviewed annually during the budget setting process.

**FIN.42/17 NOTIFICATION OF TAX BASE AND LOCAL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME**

Members noted details of the Tax Base and Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme Grant for 2018/19 as notified by Durham County Council. (For copy see file of Minutes).

The net effect on the Council's precept was noted. However, it was explained that budget requirements would also need to be considered in the context of the outcome of consultation on the Parish Plan and possible funding implications for the Town Council. The Government proposal to extend referendum principles to local councils would also be considered taking a medium to long term view of the Council's budgetary requirements.

It was therefore suggested that the precept be considered at the Finance Committee scheduled to be held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018 and at the Council meeting to be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2017.

- RECOMMENDED**
1. That the information be noted
  2. That consideration of the precept for be given at the Finance Committee to be held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018 and at the Council meeting to be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2017.

**FIN.43/17 NOTIFICATION OF EXTERNAL AUDITOR APPOINTMENT FOR 2017/18 – 2022/2023**

Consideration was given to a report in relation to the appointment of an external auditor appointment for 2017/18 – 2022/2023. (For copy see file of Minutes).

Members noted that Mazzars LLP had been appointed external auditors for the five year period commencing with the audit ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018, together with their scale of fees.

Due to the increasing complexity of the Council's finances it was suggested that Durham County Council be requested to quote for the provision of accountancy services, including assistance with budgetary control, quarterly reports to Finance Committee and preparation of the annual governance and accountability return.

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

- RECOMMENDED:**
1. That the information be noted.
  2. That Members raise any potential conflict of interest relating to Mazzars LLP, the auditor appointment.
  3. That Durham County Council be requested to quote for the provision of accountancy services, including assistance with budgetary control, quarterly reports to Finance Committee and preparation of the annual governance and accountability return.

**FIN.44/17 IT EQUIPMENT AND SUPPORT**

Members noted that costs had not yet been received from Durham County Council. Discussion was therefore deferred to the next meeting.

**FIN.45/17 APPLICATIONS FOR COMMUNITY FUND AND DONATIONS**

Members considered applications for grants under the Community Fund from the following organisations:-

1. Four Clocks Club (BATC)
2. Time for Toddlers (BATC)
3. Cockton Hill Bowls Club
4. NTC Touring Theatre Co. Ltd (Northumberland Theatre Company)
5. Bishop Auckland Remembrance Garden
6. Bishop Auckland Sports Bar FC

Requests for donations had also been received from

1. Crisis, Welfare and Intervention Project, Woodhouse Church Community Centre
2. Bishop Auckland Fellowship of Christian Churches – Christmas Lunch Project
3. Holocaust Memorial Day, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2018

- RECOMMENDED:**
1. That a grant of £100 be made to the Four Clocks Club (BATC)
  2. That a grant of £400 be made to Time for Toddlers (BATC)
  3. That a grant of £301.84 be made to Cockton Hill Bowls Club
  4. That a grant of £240 be made to Bishop Auckland Remembrance Garden, subject to receipt of an original bank statement.
  5. That a grant of £100 be made to Bishop Auckland Sports Bar FC.
  6. That a donation of £1,000 be made to the Crisis, Welfare and Intervention Project, Woodhouse Community Centre
  7. That a donation of £150 be made to Bishop Auckland Fellowship of Christian Churches Christmas Lunch Project

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

8. That a donation of £200 be made to the Holocaust Memorial Day
9. That no donation be made to NTC Touring Theatre Co Ltd

All grants and donations are made under the Localism Act 2011 (Power of Competence)

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