

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held in the Four Clocks Centre, Bishop Auckland on Tuesday, 26th November at 5.00 p.m.

Present: Councillor Wilson (Chairman) and Councillors Allen, Blackburn and Brownson.

Also Present: David Anderson (Town Clerk)

FIN.27/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were submitted by Chappell and S. Zair

FIN.28/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item No 4.4.a Authorisation of Cheques, Written Under Delegated Powers

Councillors Allen, Blackburn and Brownson declared an 'other registerable interest' in respect of cheque number 1850.

Councillors Allen, Blackburn declared an 'other registerable interest' in respect of cheque numbers 1845, 1865 and 1873.

FIN.29/19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public in attendance.

REPORT OF TOWN CLERK

FIN.30/19 ACCOUNT BALANCES AS AT 26th NOVEMBER 2019

The Town Clerk reported account balances as follows: -

Lloyds Deposit Account	£259,680.49
Lloyds Current Account	£1,970.36
Darlington Building Society	£85,234.18
Nationwide	£85,550.65
Santander	£85,000.00
NE First Credit Union	£85,000.00

RECOMMENDED: That the information be noted.

FIN.31/19 BANK RECONCILIATIONS AT END OF QUARTER 2

Members noted and confirmed that accounts held by the Council had been reconciled and signed by the Chairman of Finance Committee.

RECOMMENDED: That the bank reconciliations be noted and confirmed.

FIN.32/19 SPEND AGAINST BUDGET AS AT 30TH SEPTEMBER 2019 (QUARTER 2)

A schedule detailing spend against budget as at 30th September 2019 (end of Quarter 2) was circulated and considered. (For copy see file of Minutes).

RECOMMENDED: That the information be noted.

FIN.33/19 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	£30,197.80
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RECOMMENDED: That the action taken be confirmed.

Signed:
Chair

FIN.34/19 CHEQUES PRESENTED FOR AUTHORISATION

No cheques were presented for authorisation.

FIN.35/19 APPLICATIONS FOR COMMUNITY FUND / DONATIONS

Consideration was given to a report regarding a request for a donation to the Bishop Auckland Fellowship of Christian Churches. (For copy see file of Minutes).

Members were reminded that in the period prior to an election, known as 'Purdah', the Council must ensure that public money and resources were not used to promote or give any political party, political campaign or candidate an advantage.

Community Fund applications and requests for donations had therefore been suspended until after the election period, unless there were exceptional circumstances, such as the timescale of projects. Where applications or requests were considered during the purdah period no publicity would be given until purdah had expired. That advice was in line with Durham County Council's advice relating to Neighbourhood Budgets and Member Initiative Funds.

Giving the timescales involved in Bishop Auckland Fellowship of Christian Churches' project, which sought to provide a Christmas dinner for any person or couple who would otherwise have no company on Christmas Day, the request was considered by the Committee.

RECOMMENDED:

That a donation of £150 be made to the Bishop Auckland Fellowship of Christian Churches' project to provide a Christmas dinner for any person or couple who would otherwise have no company on Christmas Day.