

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held in the Four Clocks Centre, Bishop Auckland on Tuesday, 14th January 2020 at 5.00 p.m.

Present: Councillor Wilson (Chairman) and Councillors Allen, Blackburn, Brownson, Chappell and S Zair

Also Present: Councillors Cullen and Fleming and David Anderson (Town Clerk)

FIN.36/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were submitted by A Zair and L. Zair

FIN.37/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Councillor S. Zair declared a 'disclosable pecuniary interest' in respect of cheque number 1885 and did not take part in the discussion or voting thereon.

Item No 4.5 Applications for Community Fund / Donations

Councillors Allen and Blackburn declared an 'other registerable interest' in respect of the application from Bishop Auckland Community Partnership cheque number and did not take part in the discussion or voting thereon.

Councillor Fleming declared an 'other registerable interest' in respect of the application from Bishop Auckland Golf Club and did not take part in the discussion or voting thereon.

Item No 4.6 Medium Term Financial Plan 2019/20 to 2021/22, Council Tax 2020/21

Councillor Allen declared an 'other registerable interest' in respect of the potential budget allocation to Operation Aries and did not take part in the discussion or voting thereon.

FIN.38/19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public in attendance.

REPORT OF TOWN CLERK

FIN.39/19 ACCOUNT BALANCES AS AT 14th JANUARY 2020

The Town Clerk reported account balances as follows: -

Lloyds Deposit Account	£229,795.81
Lloyds Current Account	£1,501.30
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.40/19 BANK RECONCILIATIONS AT END OF QUARTER 3

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.

Signed:
Chair

FIN.41/19 SPEND AGAINST BUDGET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2020 (QUARTER 3)

A schedule detailing spend against budget as at 31st December 2020 (end of Quarter 3) was circulated and considered. (For copy see file of Minutes).

RECOMMENDED: That the information be noted.

FIN.42/19 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 £30,754.54

RECOMMENDED: That the action taken be confirmed.

FIN.43/19 CHEQUES PRESENTED FOR AUTHORISATION

No cheques were presented for authorisation.

FIN.44/19 APPLICATION FOR COMMUNITY FUND AND DONATIONS

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

1. Bishop Auckland Golf Club
2. Bishop United CIC
3. Bishop Auckland Community Partnership

- RECOMMENDED:**
1. That a grant of £200 be made to Bishop Auckland Golf Club.
 2. That a grant of £499 made to Bishop United CIC.
 3. That a grant of £383.98 be made to Bishop Auckland Community Partnership.

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

FIN.45/19 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2019/20 to 2022/23, COUNCIL TAX 2020/21

Consideration was given to a report relating to the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2019/20 – 2022/23 and Council Tax 2020/21. (For copy see file of Minutes).

Members noted details of the Tax Base and the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (LCTR) Grant for 2020/21, which had resulted in a net increase of £1,181.12. The MTFP had been revised to take this information into account. In addition, the MTFP has been amended to reflect increases in salaries and on costs, provision of a budget to provide a fund for the replacement of ICT equipment and anticipated changes in relation to purchase of new accommodation for the Council offices. For budget purposes it had been anticipated that the Council would have relocated to the new office on 1st April 2020.

Members noted that the Government had advised that referendum principles would not be extended to town and parish councils for 2020/21. Members were however advised to be mindful of the principles whilst considering the council tax and budget for the coming financial year, which stated that a referendum would be triggered if council tax increases were 2% or above or over £5.00, whichever was higher. If referendum principles were applicable the Town Council would therefore be able to increase Council Tax by up to £5.00 without triggering a referendum.

RECOMMENDED: That the budget detailed at Appendix 3 of the report be considered by Council.

Signed:
Chair