

Minutes of the Meeting of the **FINANCE COMMITTEE** held in the Four Clocks Centre, Bishop Auckland on **TUESDAY, 1ST DECEMBER 2015 AT 5.00 P.M.**

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

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

FIN.29/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Blackburn, A Zair and L Zair.

FIN.30/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were submitted.

FIN.31/15 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public in attendance.

REPORT OF TOWN CLERK

FIN.32/15 ACCOUNT BALANCES AS AT 20TH OCTOBER 2015

The Town Clerk reported account balances as follows:-

Public Sector Deposit Fund	£195,694.53
Deposit Account	£13,763.93
Current Account	£4,999.82
Mayors Charity Account	£2,224.65

RECOMMENDED: That the information be noted.

FIN.33/15 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	£24,339.57
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RECOMMENDED: That the action taken be confirmed.

FIN.34/15 CHEQUES PRESENTED FOR AUTHORISATION

Members noted that there were no cheques presented for authorisation.

RECOMMENDED: That the information be noted.

FIN.35/15 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2015/16 - 2018/19

COUNCIL TAX 2016/17

Members noted that further to discussions by the Committee at its meeting held on 9th September 2015 where forecast information relating to the localisation of Council Tax Support Grant and the Council Tax Base was considered, information had been received from Durham County Council to allow consideration of the Medium Term Financial Plan 2015/16 – 2018/19 and Council Tax requirements for 2016/17.

Following detailed consideration of the budget requirements for 2016/17 the Committee made following proposed amendments to the MTFP for consideration by Council

Bishop Proms £6,000 (delete)
Tourism Support £6,000 (insert)
Capital Programme £20,000 (insert)

Signed:
Chair

RECOMMENDED: That the initial budget proposals be submitted to Council for consideration.

FIN.36/15 COMMUNITY FUNDS APPLICATIONS

Members considered applications for donations from the following organisations:-

1. Great North Air Ambulance
2. King James 1 Academy
3. Durham Cathedral
4. Bishop Auckland Theatre Hooligans
5. South Church Lane Allotments Association
6. Bishop Auckland Theatre Society
7. 4 Clocks Heritage Project

Members noted that a donation of £200 had been awarded to the Great North Air Ambulance in July 2015.

In respect to the application from Durham Cathedral, members noted that in accordance with the Local Government Act 1894 the Town Council could not contribute to the maintenance or improvement of church properties.

- RECOMMENDED:**
1. That no donation be made to Great North Air Ambulance on this occasion.
 2. That no donation be made to King James 1 Academy on this occasion.
 3. That no donation be made to Durham Cathedral.
 4. That no donation be given to Bishop Auckland Theatre Hooligans on this occasion.
 5. That a donation of £165 be made to South Church Allotment Association to contribute towards children's entertainment at their 2016 community open day.
 6. That a donation of £500 be made to Bishop Auckland Theatre Society to support their pantomime.
 7. That a donation of £485 be made to the Four Clocks Heritage Project to help initiate the project.

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

Signed:
Chair