

HUNTINGDON TOWN COUNCIL**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held at Huntingdon Town Hall on Thursday 23rd September 2021 at 6:30pm.

MINUTES

Present: Councillors A Beevor; A Blackwell; J Cole; C Doyle; S Gifford; P Kennington; P Pearce; and S Sweek.

Absent: None

16. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors M Baker; P Brown; V Hufford; B Luckham; M Kadewere; P Kadewere; A McAdam; S McAdam; T Sanderson and K Webb.

17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

18. PUBLIC ADDRESS

There was none.

19. MINUTES

The minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on the 5th August 2021 (M1) were presented to Members. The Chairman asked Members if there were any comments, there were none. It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to approve the minutes, subject to the amendment above.

20. MONTHLY EXPENDITURE

Members had before them a copy of the monthly expenditure of Huntingdon Town Council for July and August 2021. Members were asked to email any questions to the RFO in advance of the Meeting.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to approve the monthly expenditure for July and August 2021.

21. BANK RECONCILIATION

Members received a copy of the bank reconciliation for months ending 31st July and 31st August 2021.

The Chairman asked Members whether there were any questions. There were none.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to approve the bank reconciliation for month ending 31st July and 31st August 2021.

22. BUDGET VS ACTUALS

Members were presented with the Budget vs Actuals up to 31st August 2021.

The Chairman asked Members whether there were any questions.

It was noted that the staffing budget was below the expected expenditure, but expenditure would increase as the new members of staff were in post.

Members noted the £477,895 not yet spent in the crematorium budget. The RFO informed members crematorium expenditure would increase as the public works loan payments started.

It was then proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to note the budget vs actual up to 31st August 2021.

23. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

The Chairman asked Members whether it was their wish to move that the public and the press be excluded from the meeting in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 and it was

RESOLVED to do so.

24. BANK & CCLA ACCOUNTS

Members discussed private and confidential matters, which can be found in a private and confidential appendix.

25. READMISSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

The Chairman asked Members whether it was their wish to readmit members of the public and the press to the meeting and it was

RESOLVED to do so.

26. INVOICES OVER £1000

Clerk's Note: Cllr Beevor arrived at 18:54

Members were presented with a report including a list of over £1,000 invoices the Town Clerk had approved using delegated powers during government lock down due to the coronavirus pandemic.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to approve the list of over £1,000 invoices the Town Clerk approved using delegated authority

27. SPEAKER SYSTEM

Members had before them a report regarding the provision of a portable speaker system for council meetings. As the system would be portable, it was noted it could also be used at the Coneygear Centre or other venues if required.

Members were also asked to consider the option of returning to virtual council meetings via Zoom, due to the increase in local COVID-19 cases, low attendance at in-person meetings, and expense of the system that would not be required once social distancing no longer needed to be enforced.

Some Members noted that they were in favour of a return to virtual meetings.

A Member questioned if virtual meetings would be legal. It was explained that Members would make recommendations at the virtual meetings, and these would be actioned by the Town Clerk using delegated powers.

It was suggested that sub-committee meetings could be held virtually, and full committee meetings could remain in-person.

It was then proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to defer the purchase of a speaker system, in order to consider other options and obtain alternative quotes.

It was also noted that the matter of returning to virtual meetings should be further discussed at an upcoming full council meeting.

28. DATE & AGENDA OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was noted as Thursday 25th November 2021.

Members noted their thanks to the RFO, Helen Merrick, for her work at HTC, and wished her well in her new job.

Chairman