



NANTWICH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 20 FEBRUARY 2020

Present – Councillors: Pam Kirkham, Stuart Bostock, David Greaves, John Statham, Philip Staley and Stephanie Wedgwood with Samantha Roberts the Town Clerk.

Also present: Councillor Arthur Moran (Mayor)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Penny Butterill, David Marren (Chair) and the Facilities Manager David Thomas.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Pam Kirkham declared an interest in agenda item 5. Grant applications as her daughter is involved in the organisation.

3 MINUTES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE OF 31st JANUARY 2020

Committee approved the minutes of the Meeting held on 31st January 2020.

4 2019/20 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Members noted the income and expenditure as at the end of January 2020. The Clerk spoke to the accompanying report identifying areas of overspend within cost centres providing explanations. The Clerk advised members that she had included within the report details of service areas where an income is also generated, allowing members to have an understand of the true cost of a service or whether the service is creating a surplus. Members considered the costs associated with the market particularly given the recent request from market stall holders to reconsider the 2020 rent fees.

Councillor Statham suggested that whilst he believed the town council had made the right decision relating to market stall fees, he also believed it had not been carried out in the right way, stating a blanket rent increase was not a fare method. Councillor Statham suggested that over the next 12 months a review of the rents and stalls should be carried out to create a fare and equitable pricing policy. Councillor Moran added his sympathy for the stall holders particularly as Nantwich is a market town and the possible additional pressure following the refurbishment at Crewe market. Councillor Bostock suggested that a fare process could be to measure the stall units and suggested regular meetings with the market traders.

Members also discussed the rent fees for allotments and agreed that the rent fees for both the market stalls and allotments should be reconsidered by full council.

Councillor Statham asked about the budgeting for the Performance music Licence suggesting that the town council has overbudgeted for 2020 after including £3000 within the civic cost centre and £1000 within the market cost centre. The Clerk confirmed this had been overlooked when setting the budget but added that should the £1000 not be required then the council could choose to vire the money to an alternative cost centre. Councillor Statham asked for clarity on the budget for training, the Clerk advised that the budget was for staff training and will be held within accounts in 2020 unlike in 2019 where it was held in reserves.

Councillor Moran asked about the bank reconciliation which did not show the capital reserves. The Clerk confirmed that the capital reserves are currently shown within the asset register but following advice from the internal auditor and other Clerks a recommendation will be coming to the committee at the next meeting for the capital reserves to be shown within accounts as the funds are not long term investments.

Resolved: It was resolved:

- a) To note the income and expenditure of the Town Council to the end of January 2020;
- b) To recommend that full council reconsider the market and allotment fees set for 2020 as per standing order 7(a);
- c) To recommend that the market rents increase by £1 per unit per day, and to introduce a fair rent policy.

5. GRANT APPLICATIONS

Members considered the following grant applications for 2019/20:

Applicant	Project	Total cost (£)	Grant requested	Grant recommended	Notes
Circus Starr CIC	Circus – 22.4.2020 at Nantwich Football club	£14,782.47	£500	£500	To fund 30 socially Isolated children and Families from Nantwich.
Nantwich Volunteer Transport	To provide basic Transport to Support local Patients to attend Medical or Related appointments.	£695	£516	£500	Start up cost to pay The first year Insurance for Volunteer drivers And DBS checks for 10 volunteer Drivers.

Resolved: To approve the grant application as detailed.

6. REPORT ON VIREMENT

Members considered the previously circulated report requesting virement of funds between budget headings to address essential expenditure as detailed within the report.

Resolved: It was resolved to approve the request for the virements from 4040 601 and 4054 601 To 4212 601 to help cover the cost of replacement flooring totalling £5,567.

7. ACCOUNTS AND PAYMENTS

Resolved: That the schedule of payments be approved in accordance of the previous resolution of the Town Council to use the General Power of Competence.

Signature of Chair :.....

Date :.....