



NANTWICH TOWN COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 21 MARCH 2019

Present - Councillor Moran (Vice Chair), Councillor Marren (Mayor) and Councillors Bartram, Bostock, Bowyer-Bates, Butterill, Lewis, David Thomas and the Town Clerk.

In the absence of Councillor Kirkham Councillor Moran took the chair.

PART 1

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Kirkham, Hall and Staley.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Moran declared an item 5.

Councillor Butterill declared an interest in item 6.

3. MINUTES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE OF 31 JANUARY 2019

Committee approved the minutes of the Meeting held on 31 January 2019.

4. 2018/19 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Committee received a report on income and expenditure to the end of February, eleven months through the financial year. Committee noted that the predicted expenditure includes commitments through to the end of the financial year. A small surplus is expected at year end.

Committee also noted that the Civic Hall net expenditure was on target. The Market operation is predicted to show a small loss.

Committee noted the supply of electricity from the Civic Hall and Market to power parking meters and lights on Cheshire East land. The Clerk will seek a legal interpretation on the clause regarding access to services in the transfer document. Committee authorised the Clerk to pursue payment of invoices going back to the transfer in 2012.

The Allotments expenditure includes committed expenditure on repairs to the drain at Brookfield. The allotments expenditure continues to be well in excess of income. Committee received the report.

5. REPORT ON INTERNAL AUDITOR

Committee noted the report of the Internal Auditor for the quarter 1 October to 31 December 2018.

6. GRANT APPLICATIONS

Committee considered the following applications for grant aid.

Applicant	Project	Total cost (£)	Grant Requested (£)	Notes
Nantwich Lions Club (satellite of Crewe & Nantwich Lions Club)	Clean up of River Weaver - Litter pickers, safety gloves, waders and nets	300	300	Grant requested for equipment for Duck Race event and other litter picking events

Committee **RESOLVED** to award a grant of £300 from the grants contingency budget for 2018/19.

Nantwich Pride	First Annual Nantwich Pride event	6,000	500	First event to be held at Railway Hotel, town event in subsequent years
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Committee **RESOLVED** to award a grant of £500 from the grants contingency budget for 2018/19.

Crewe Concert Band	Charity concert at the Civic Hall	?	500	Contribution towards hall hire
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Committee **RESOLVED** to award a grant to cover the hall hire from the grants contingency budget for 2018/19.

Greenspaces - Coed Wen	Bulb planting at Coed Wen	500	500	Additional planting at Coed Wen - involving scout / guide groups. Grant required for materials
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Committee **RESOLVED** to award a grant of £500 from the grants contingency budget for 2018/19.

World Project Management UK	Pre-employment training programme in Project Management	9,700	5,000	Per 12 programme – costs include Office rental Staffing Materials Utilities Computer equipment
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Committee **RESOLVED** not to award a grant.

Nantwich Cricket Club	Purchase of a new motor roller	15-20,000	10,000	Application for a capital grant approved at Council on 7 February. The roller has been purchased.
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Committee **RESOLVED** to release the capital grant of £10,000.

7. YEAR END CLOSE DOWN OF ACCOUNTS

Committee noted the year end close-down date of 23 April 2019 and timetable for approval of the Annual Return (AGAR).

8. SUITABILITY AND APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR – 2019-20

Committee considered the appointment of Afford Bond as the Internal Auditor for 2019-20. Committee **RESOLVED** to recommend to Council that Afford Bond continue as the Internal Auditor for 2019-20.

9. INSURANCE – FIDELITY GUARANTEE

Committee noted that the insurance policy includes a Sum Insured of £2,000,000 for Fidelity Guarantee. This exceeds the total amount of money in all the bank accounts at any one time.

10. PROGRESS REPORT ON ALLOTMENTS

The Clerk reported on progress on the drainage work at Brookfield. The contractor has completed the work. Excavation near to the existing manhole on the eastern boundary of the allotments site revealed a break in the drainage pipe at a depth of several metres. No evidence of damage by tree roots was found. In the contractor's opinion the break had occurred some years ago and probably before the transfer of the allotments back to

Nantwich Town Council.

Following repair to the drain the contractor monitored the flow of water into the drain from the St Anne's School playing field. No water is entering this drain from the allotment site and the drain is only taking water from the playing field under the allotment site. A second manhole has been installed in the pathway in the centre of the allotments site. This has enabled the water flow to be monitored and investigation of the drainage pipe by camera. The drainage pipe has been cleaned along its entire length and relined before the original excavation was made good.

Throughout the contract the work was monitored by Nantwich Town Council and Cheshire East staff. An invoice for the Cheshire East contribution to the work has been raised and this will be paid early in April.

11. MARKET HALL RATING

Committee receives an information report on the Valuation Agency decision on the rating appeal. A further appeal will be made by 20th June 2019.

12. FOOD FESTIVAL BUNTING

Committee discussed a request from the Food Festival Committee for bunting in the town centre. About 2,000 metres would be required at a cost of £1 per metre. The bunting only lasts for one season and requires replacing each year. Unfortunately bunting cannot be installed in all streets either because of the lack of suitable fixing points at the required height or because property owners will not give permission. Two men working over eight days would be required for installation at a cost of about £2,000.

Committee **RESOLVED** not to vire expenditure from other budgets to pay for bunting.

13. 13 BUDGET 2019/20

The Clerk explained the decisions and recommendations of Policy Committee on 14 March and Committee noted there would be no significant implications for the Budget in 2019/20.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Thursday 6 June 2019 6.00 pm Peggy Killick Suite, Nantwich Civic Hall.

PART 2

15. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Committee **RESOLVED**, further to section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act 1960), to exclude press and public on the grounds that the matters to be considered concern commercial financial details best considered in confidence.

16. WORDS AND MUSIC FESTIVAL

Committee considered a report on possible compensation for a cancelled booking due to changes to the dates of the Words and Music Festival. David Thomas reported that the festival organisers are looking for an alternative venue for the Friday night concert.

Committee **RESOLVED** not to cancel the Civic Hall booking for the Friday night on the grounds that to do so would damage the Civic Hall's reputation in the industry and would involve the use of public money to pay compensation.

17. CIVIC HALL EXTENSION

In view of the lack of progress on the acquisition of land from Cheshire East, a revised scheme for a rear extension to the Civic Hall has been developed. Committee authorised officers to obtain revised drawings and to progress the scheme to the stage where a planning application can be submitted.