



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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Bartram and Staley.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Bowyer-Bates declared an interest in the budget report and fees and charges as a member of Nantwich Concert Band.

Councillor Moran declared an interest in the budget report as a Director of Nantwich Show.

3. MINUTES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE OF 1 NOVEMBER 2018

The minutes of the Meeting held on 1 November 2018 were approved.

4. 2017/18 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Committee received a report on income and expenditure to the end of October, seven months through the financial year. Committee noted that costs may rise during the second half of the year which includes the winter months.

The prediction expenditure now includes committed expenditure through to the end of the financial year. A small surplus is expected at year end.

The Civic Hall predicted income has been reduced to take account of the Christmas closure and low takings in January giving a predicted outturn of about £46,000 expenditure over income at year end.

The Market operation is predicted to produce a small surplus at year end. Committee noted that costs will rise next year.

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

David Thomas reported that, following several false alarms, it was necessary to upgrade the fire alarm system at the Civic Hall. The estimated cost is £20,000. Committee agreed to fund this expenditure, if possible, out of the year end surplus and revenue reserves.

Committee received the report.

5. GRANT APPLICATIONS

Committee considered grant applications from Nantwich in Bloom and 38th Nantwich Scouts.

**Nantwich in Bloom
Water supply to the Square**

Committee discussed the feasibility of providing a water supply from the Parish Rooms. The Mayor confirmed that their current supply is not metered. An alternative solution would be to purchase a bowser to be filled from the supply at the Stonemason's Yard. Committee agreed to obtain an estimate of cost for the bowser and to explore the practicalities of installing a tap.

Stonemason's Yard

Discussions have recently been held with Cheshire East regarding a licence to maintain the yard for the benefit of local organisations. Whilst some work to the surface is

required, a hard surface would lead to drainage problems. It is also necessary to stop car parking in the site.

Planting beds adjacent to Parish Rooms

The possibility of redeveloping these beds as a memorial shrubbery had been discussed some time ago and this discussion will be resurrected.

The Clerk was asked to inform Nantwich in Bloom of the proposed action.

38th Nantwich Scouts

The request for grant aid was noted by Committee for further consideration when plans have been progressed. As an alternative to a capital grant the possibility of a loan will be suggested. Committee also discussed the feasibility of acquiring the site and developing a community building for rent by the Scouts and other organisations.

David Thomas suggested that the Scouts could be offered free use of the Civic Hall for a fund-raising event.

6. REPORT ON FEES AND CHARGES

Committee considered potential increases in fees and charges from 1 April 2019.

Market rents

Committee **RESOLVED** to recommend an increase of £1 per day.

Civic Hall

Committee **RESOLVED** to recommend no increase in charges as these had recently been revised to include set up charges.

Brookfield Hall

Committee **RESOLVED** to recommend an increase of 4% rounded up to the nearest pound.

Allotments

Committee **RESOLVED** to recommend an increase for residents (including Stapeley & District residents) to £40 (from £37) and for non- residents to £60 (from £54).

The agreed increases will be built into a revised budget and precept calculation.

7. BUDGET 2019/20 AND RESERVES

Committee received a report on the precept calculation and budget proposals for 2019/20 and on reserves for 2019/20.

Committee proposed the following reductions in expenditure in the budget thus saving £8,500.

Rates - Market	3000	0	Any increase to be met from reserves pending an appeal against the re-valuation
2 First aid gazebos for events	2000	0	Existing gazebos to be used with new signage
Benches	2500	0	New benches to be funded by donations

Committee proposed the following increases in expenditure in the budget at cost of £20,000.

Ward Budgets	0	10000	The budget of £24,000 was deleted in the original report, Committee wish to re-instate a budget of £10,000.
Extra staffing costs at Market – Saturday working	0	10000	

The Clerk was asked to take account of changes in expenditure and the income in the preparation of a revised budget. Committee asked that the budget should be adjusted to produce an increase in the Band D rate of no more than 4.99%.

8. MARKET LETTINGS AND VAT

Committee received a report on the on-going VAT discussion between NAMBA and the Inland Revenue. NABMA has asked for a donation to cover legal costs and Committee **RESOLVED** to donate £150.

9. CHURCH HOUSE – 10 YEAR LOAN

Committee noted the re-registration of the loan with the Land Registry and the signing of Form DS1 by the Mayor as execution as a deed. The signing was witnessed by a JP.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Thursday 31 January 2019 6.00 pm Peggy Killick Suite, Nantwich Civic Hall.