



## NANTWICH TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021

**Present** – Councillors: David Marren (Chair), Arthur Moran, Stuart Bostock, David Greaves, John Statham and Stephanie Wedgwood with the Facilities Manager David Thomas and Samantha Roberts the Town Clerk.

**Also present:** Councillors Pam Kirkham, Peter Groves and Andrew Martin

#### **26. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Phil Staley

#### **27. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest expressed.

#### **28. MINUTES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE OF 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

Committee approved the minutes of the Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021

#### **29. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE**

Members considered the previous circulated report detailing the income and expenditure to 31 January 2021. The Clerk advised members that she had followed the same format of reporting as previous months highlighting where savings had been made and how this has off-set the reduction in income experienced due to the pandemic.

The Clerk advised members that the amount of funding received through grants due to the pandemic had to date been £151,754, exceeding original expectations. The Clerk also advised members that following agreement by members to amend the method for reviewing budgets she had been in contact with the software provider and received a test on an additional module to the software to allow for phased budget monitoring.

The Chair asked how much more in grant funding had been received than had originally been expected. The Clerk informed members that she had only expected approximately half of that actually received to date. Councillor Moran asked how long the NHS would be hiring the Civic Hall, and the Clerk confirmed that at the moment the agreement was until the end of March 2021, with a view to extend further if required.

Councillor Statham asked if the Clerk was expected any further grants before the end of the financial year, and the Clerk confirmed that she was expecting further support through the Job Retention Scheme until the end of March, the potential for additional government funding for those staff which had been furloughed in the last year but were still in employment, at £1000 per employee, she was not expected any further support from Cheshire East Council. Councillor Statham asked for further detail on the benefits of introducing the phased budget software, and the Clerk provided some practical examples.

Councillor Bostock asked if there was a cost to the additional module for phased budgets. The Clerk confirmed that there was an initial purchase cost of £538, with an annual fee of £143 thereafter.

Councillor Statham asked for clarity on the budget for newsletters where actual spend has appeared to be significantly lower than the budget. The Facilities Manager confirmed that there had been fewer issues in the year, and each issue had less content due the pandemic, and so the costs were less than had been expected.

Councillor Bostock sought clarification on the approved grant for Nantwich In Bloom for 2021, and the Clerk suggested that Nantwich in Bloom be advised that the budget has been approved to support the grant, and given the approach for setting the budget in 2021 it is hopeful that all grants will be honoured.

**Resolved:** It was resolved:

- a) To note the report and approve the review of income and expenditure and the bank reconciliations as of 31 January 2021;
- b) Continue to act with caution and refrain from unnecessary expenditure.

**30. ACCOUNTS AND PAYMENTS**

**Resolved:** That the schedule of payments be approved in accordance with the previous resolution of the Town Council to use the General Power of Competence, the total sums as follows:

Trading Account = £133,773.84

Current Account = £2,086.89

One card = £1,094.70

**The meeting ended at 6.55pm**

Signature of Chair :.....

Date :.....