



**NANTWICH TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 25<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2021**

**Present** – Councillors: John Statham, Arthur Moran, David Greaves and Pam Kirkham with Samantha Roberts the Town Clerk.

**Also present:** Councillor Stuart Bostock

**39. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors, David Marren (Chair), Phil Staley and Stephanie Wedgwood.

**40. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest expressed.

**41. MINUTES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE OF 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

Committee approved the minutes of the Meetings held on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021

**42. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE**

The Town Clerk spoke to the report advising members that as we come to the final quarter of the year it is becoming more promising and reassuring that the shows scheduled over the next few months are looking more likely to go ahead. However, if they do not go ahead due to increased Covid restrictions the impact on the 2021 budget will not be as significant due to the income already received to date.

**Resolved:** It was resolved:

- a) To note and approve the review of the income and expenditure and bank reconciliations as of 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021.

**43. FINANCIAL RISK ASSESSMENT**

Members considered pages three and four of the current Financial Risk Assessment and agreed that there were no amendments required.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to retain the existing wording to pages three and four of the Financial Risk Assessment.

**44. GRANT APPLICATIONS**

Applicant	Project	Total cost (£)	Grant Requested (£)	Notes
Nantwich & District Royal British Legion	Band music concert	£2,875	£2,875	To cover costs for the show including room hire and security at the Civic, travel and accommodation costs for one of the bands.
<b>Total</b>		<b>£2,875</b>	<b>£2,875</b>	

**Resolved:** It was resolved to approve the grant applications as detailed above to be taken from the Civic Hall Grants of £8,000 for 2022.

#### 45. PUBLIC CONVENIENCE SURVEY RESULTS

Members considered the previously circulated report and survey results for the Public Conveniences survey. The Clerk highlighted some of the main responses including the positive response to the refurbishment of Snowhill, and the requirement for Sunday opening of public conveniences.

**Resolved:** It was resolved:

- a) A recommendation to Full Councillor for the re-introduction of toilets at Snowhill to be taken to the next stage of design and feasibility;
- b) A recommendation that Full Council should approve the funding of the project through Capital Receipt Reserves

#### 46. BUDGET 2022/23

Members considered the draft budget as prepared following the last meeting of the Finance Committee on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021. The Clerk advised members that she had not made any further amendments as there had not been any feedback from residents despite every household receiving the consultation leaflet.

Councillor Statham suggested that if the Town Council were to benefit from the reduced National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) following the Governments Budget announcements that the proposed rent increase for market traders is removed, meaning the rents would remain the same for 2022/23. Members supported this idea should confirmation be received.

Councillor Statham also suggested that given the improved position of the current years' budget that it could be possible to reduce the precept for 2022/23 further from -10% to -15%. Members supported the idea of reducing the precept further, but some were a little nervous about reducing it as much as 15%. After discussion by members of a possible 12.5% reduction the Clerk confirmed that -12.5% would be acceptable based on estimates for 2022/23.

**Resolved:** It was resolved:

- a) To recommend that Full Council do not increase the rent for market traders if the Town Council benefits from a reduction in the NNDR for 2022/23;
- b) To recommend the approval of the Planned Maintenance Programme as amended by the Finance Committee;
- c) To recommend the approval of the ear-marked reserves and one-off Capital/maintenance costs for 2022/23;
- d) To recommend a 5% increase in allotment rents;
- e) To recommend that the Civic Hall and Brookfield fees and charges should remain the same for 2022/23;
- f) To recommend a precept of -12% for 2022/23 equating to £152.94 per year for a Band D property or £2.94 per week a reduction of 42p per week compared to 2021/22.

#### 47. ESSENTIAL IT UPGRADE

The Clerk spoke to the previously circulated report requesting that members approve the virement of funds from the cost code for the Comfort Scheme to the cost code for IT to allow for the upgrade of the server from a hard drive to a cloud-based system.

Councillor Statham asked if the Town Council could potentially sell on the hard drive and the Clerk confirmed she would check this possibility. Councillor Statham also asked how often contracts were reviewed. The Clerk confirmed that most contracts were reviewed three yearly.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to approve the virement of £3,500 to cover the cost of the server upgrade.

**48. 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 = £159,444.57
- Current Account = £2,159.56
- One card = £627.20
- Petty Cash = £95.34

**The meeting ended at 7.15pm**

Signature of Chair :.....

Date :.....