



NANTWICH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 1st November 2022

Present – Councillors: David Marren, David Greaves, Peter Groves, Arthur Moran, John Statham, with Samantha Roberts the Town Clerk and Sheryl Birtles the Deputy Town Clerk.

Also present: None

23. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor David Marren (Chair) and Stuart Bostock

24. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Moran declared he was a member of the Nantwich Show Committee and would refrain from voting.

25. MINUTES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE OF 29th September 2022

Committee approved the minutes of the Meeting held on 29th September 2022.

26. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Members considered the previously circulated reports detailing the income and expenditure to 30th September 2022. The Clerk advised members that the Council was in a good position, as at the mid-way point through the year the Council's expenditure was at 52% and income had exceeded expectation at 85%. Councillor Statham agreed and highlighted that the continued work on the budget was proving accurate.

Resolved: It was resolved:

- a) To note the report and approve the review of income and expenditure and the bank reconciliations as of 30th September 2022.

27. BUDGET 2023/24

The Town Clerk asked members to consider the previously circulated draft budget which had been prepared by the Clerk and adjusted as requested by members to save money where possible.

Members discussed the draft budget with the Clerk advising that she had received guidance from Cheshire East Council and the tax base was better than they expected. Councillor Statham proposed that the Council should offer a 5% reduction in the precept. Members agreed that the Council were investing in the town, whilst taking into consideration the cost-of-living crisis.

The Clerk explained that she would produce a leaflet for residents to consult on the budget.

Resolved: It was resolved:

- a) A 5% reduction on the precept would go out to consultation to residents.

28. INCOME 2023/24

Members considered the previously circulated report detailing the various income streams of the Town Council for 2023/24. The Clerk commented that as members had requested, she had reviewed what other towns were charging for market stalls, stating that it had been quite hard to do, but had made comparisons where possible. She reported that the Town Council were in a strong position with what we charge. Councillor Statham suggested a nominal increase as there was a lot of maintenance planned for the market.

Councillor Statham commented that residents on low incomes were keen to take on allotments, but that the £100 deposit was a lot for them to pay and asked what could be done to help. The Town Clerk advised that the deposit had been introduced as allotment holders were leaving plots in an unusable state and it was costing the Town Council to clear them. She also explained that the £100 could be paid on a monthly basis instead of in one go.

Resolved: It was resolved:

- a) Members recommend an increase of 3% on market rents
- b) Members recommend that allotment holders deposits could be paid monthly and allotment rent increases of:

2022/23	2023/24
£33.60	£35.00
£44.10	£46.00
£54.60	£56.00
£65.10	£67.00
£75.60	£77.00

- c) Members recommend that Civic Hall and Brookfield fees and charges should remain the same.
- d) Recommend that members support the delegation of authority to the Clerk and/or Facilities Manager to negotiate fees relating to the Civic Hall and Brookfield Hall.

29. DRAFT PLANNED MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME

Members considered the planned maintenance programme for 2023/24. The Clerk advised members that she had circulated a plan with more detailed information to allow them to understand the works better, and she also advised that she had made adjustments following the past meeting which had led to savings on the budget.

Resolved: It was resolved:

- a) Members recommend that the Draft Planned Maintenance Programme should be adopted

30. GRANT APPLICATIONS

Members considered the grant applications, including:

- a) £1000 for the Wingate Special Childrens Trust, contribution towards ongoing costs
- b) £302 for hall hire costs for a Parkinsons Charity Event
- c) £2000 towards the costs for the Battle of Nantwich
- d) £5000 funding towards volunteer recruitment and subsidised outings
- e) £12,000 towards the cost of hosting the annual Nantwich Show
- f) £17,500 towards the cost of the annual Nantwich Food Festival
- g) £5,000 towards the cost of putting on the annual Nantwich Pride event
- h) £5,000 towards the cost of a Rory Gallagher Festival

Resolved: It was resolved to:

- a) Defer giving a grant, and request more information about how many residents are supported by the Wingate Centre

- b) Approve the grant
- c) Approve the grant
- d) Award £2000 grant towards volunteer recruitment
- e) Recommend that Council approve the grant
- f) Recommend that Council approve the grant
- g) Award £1000 grant approved for Civic Hall hire
- h) Award £3,000 grant for Civic Hall hire

31. ACCOUNTS AND PAYMENTS

Members considered the previously circulated accounts and payments for September 2022.

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 = £92,267.48
 Current Account = £3,696.78
 One card = £2,471.19
 Petty Cash = £19.68

The meeting ended at 8.05pm

Signature of Chair :.....

Date :.....