



BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance Committee held in the Council Chamber at Arms Everytyn House on Thursday 3 March 2016 at 6.30pm.

Present:

Councillors: K Ellis (Chair) A Gibbs-Barton (Vice-Chair), K Nisbet, J R Potts, O Potts, J Reid

In Attendance:

Councillor M A Parker
Councillor R Parker

Officers:

S E Rickitt, Town Clerk
Maureen Hawthorne, Committee

1	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Councillors: B W Elliott, G T Knox, D Rutter, and Joe Hughes, Financial Consultant
2	DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND GRANT OF DISPENSATIONS Councillors present indicated their connection with various groups in respect of Item 9. The Town Clerk disclosed an interest in Item 10 on the agenda and left the room whilst discussion took place
3	MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 14 JANUARY 2016 The minutes were AGREED and signed by the Chair.

4	MATTERS ARISING Item No 8 – Pensions Councillor J R Potts asked if staff would be enrolled in a pension scheme by 1 April 2016. The Town Clerk advised that it is likely to be May 2016 and said he had received a letter from UNISON regarding pensions which he will respond to. All Councillors will receive a copy of the response.
5	ACCOUNTS FOR 2016/2016 Current Account All information was circulated and displayed on the smart board throughout the meeting. The Town Clerk said that the current account has £20,000 in it at present and funds will be transferred should it become necessary.
6	ENGAGEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONSULTANT (a report was circulated and is attached to the signed minutes) The Chair announced that the Town Clerk has applied for a post with NALC. The Town Clerk referred to the report and the recommendation to extend the consultancy agreement for Mr Hughes on a rolling 4 week period in order to use his expertise for the base budget review. The Committee agreed to this.
7	AMENDMENT TO FINANCIAL REGULATIONS (a report was circulated and is attached to the signed minutes) The Town Clerk asked the Committee to note the recommendations which were taken to the Extraordinary Full Council. This report will be considered by Full Council on 17 March 2016 in the event the bank raises some queries or raises amendments. The Committee agreed to this.
8	EXTERNAL AUDIT (a report was circulated and is attached to the signed minutes) The Committee agreed to the recommendation outlined in the

	<p>report to adopt the opt-in position and remain with nationally appointed external auditors.</p>
9	<p>SURPLUS EQUIPMENT (a report was circulated and is attached to the signed minutes)</p> <p>The Town Clerk asked the Committee to agree to his proposal that the surplus equipment is offered to community centres etc if they are interested.</p> <p>Councillor Reid advised that the PC should have the hard drive removed and destroyed and the Town Clerk will ask Steve Bradley to do this.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to this.</p>
10	<p>TALL SHIPS COMMUNITY ARTS PROJECT</p> <p>The Town Clerk left the room whilst this discussion took place.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to endorse the request of £887 from Tall Ships Budget 2016/2017 to help fund this event.</p>
11	<p>ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AND URGENT MATTERS</p> <p>Councillor Nisbet asked Committee to approve £500 expenditure from her Councillor's allowance in order to purchase a large screen tv for the Friends of Crofton Court who provide support to suffers of dementia and after care.</p> <p>Following discussion it was agreed that the Town Clerk will prepare a report for the Annual Council meeting outlining proposals about how the Councillors allowances can be administered in a more effective way.</p> <p>The request from Councillor Nisbet was agreed.</p>
12	<p>DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next meeting of the Finance Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, 3 May 2016 at 6.30 pm in the Council Chamber.</p>

The meeting concluded at 6.55 pm

Subject to Ratification
Final

MEMBERS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Councillor K Ellis (Chair)
Councillor B W Elliott
Councillor A Gibbs-Barton (Vice Chair)
Councillor G T Knox
Councillor K Nisbet
Councillor J R Potts
Councillor O Potts
Councillor J Reid
Councillor D Rutter