



BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance Committee held at Arms Everytne House on Tuesday 7 December 2017 at 6.30 pm

Present:

Councillors: K Ellis (Chair), J R Potts (Vice-Chair), K Nisbet, R Parker, W Taylor, D Walls, G Webb

Also Present: Councillors: O Potts, M Richardson

J Hughes Town Clerk
M Hawthorne Committee Clerk

Members of the Public - 0

1	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Councillor L Rickerby
2	DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS & THE GRANT OF ANY DISPENSATIONS None.
3	MINUTES FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2017 (INCLUDING ACTIONS) The Committee agreed to ADOPT the minutes.
3.1	MATTERS ARISING <u>Action from 9.3.17</u> Councillor J R Potts asked if any progress had been made with regard to purchasing a PA system for BTC. The Town Clerk agreed to arrange a meeting with the Events Co-Order/Office Manager and will provide costings for the next Committee.

4	<p>CUSEN</p> <p>Councillor Nisbet declared an interest as a Board member and left the room for the duration of the discussion.</p> <p>Laura Langton, Chief Executive, Northumberland Community Bank gave a verbal update on the current position of the organisation. Ms Langton took the opportunity to thank BTC for their funding and support over the years which has helped sustain the organisation. She also acknowledged the ongoing support from Councillor Nisbet and Councillor Richardson. Ms Langton asked Committee to consider her request for financial support</p> <p>CUSEN was formed following a merger with Tynedale Community Bank, and the organisation has benefitted from combining two teams and resources. A Business Plan has been drawn up and the aim of the organisation is to become self-sufficient within 3 years. NCC has agreed that CUSEN can use the Customer Service Centre in the library, where members will be able to apply for loans etc. Blyth is the first information centre to do this. A volunteer from the organisation has recently been appointed to a part time post on a six month contract. Work is ongoing to improve the management information system. Membership is currently one third Blyth members, one third Ashington members and the remaining third everyone else. Ms Langton agreed with comments from Committee that communication and publicity needs to be improved and work is being done to raise the profile of the organisation.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Ms Langton for her presentation and she will be advised of the outcome regarding her request for financial support.</p>
5	<p>ACCOUNTS 2017/18</p> <p>Committee noted the information circulated. There were no queries arising. The Town Clerk advised that he has changed budget heading 700 on the Actuals Against Budget Totals to read "Environmental Services".</p>

6	ALLOWANCES POLICY Committee noted and agreed the policy circulated. They also agreed with the Town Clerk's recommendation that any member wishing to attend a course should have agreement of the Committee beforehand. If there is no Committee scheduled then approval will be sought from the Chair/Vice-Chair
7	ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AND URGENT BUSINESS <u>Financial Support to CUSEN</u> Councillor Nisbet left the room. Committee agreed to support CUSEN to the sum of £7,000 from the finance budget. This amount will be left in the budget for next year when consideration will be given as to whether the Council wish to continue to support this organisation. Councillor Nisbet will be asked to address the concerns around advertising/publicity with Ms Langton.
8	DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING The next meeting of the Finance Committee will be held on Thursday 11 January 2018 at 6.30 pm in the Council Chamber.

MEMBERS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Councillors

K Ellis (Chair)
J R Potts (Vice –Chair)
K Nisbet
R Parker
J Reid
L Rickerby
W Taylor
D Walls
G Webb

ACTIONS FROM COMMITTEE

Minute No/Date of Committee	Action	Responsible Officer	Comments	Date Action Completed
(8) 9/3/17 Update 7/12/2017	Purchase/hire of PA system Costings to be identified for next Committee	Town Clerk/Events Co-ordinator/Office Manager	.	Ongoing