



BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance Committee held at Arms Everytyn House on Thursday, 3 November 2016 at 6.30 pm

Present: K Ellis (Chair), J R Potts (Vice-Chair), B Elliott, A Gibbs-Barton, O Potts, J Reid

In attendance:

Also Present:

Councillors: A Cartie, M Parker, R Parker

J Hughes, Town Clerk

A McCabe, Office Manager

M Hawthorne, Committee Clerk

1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Councillors K Nisbet
2.	DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS & THE GRANT OF ANY DISPENSATIONS None
3.	MINUTES FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2016 Committee agreed to ADOPT the minutes.
3.1.	MATTERS ARISING There were no matters arising.

4.	ACCOUNTS 2016/2017 Investment Accounts The Town Clerk confirmed he has paid money into the CCLA account where necessary. Bank Reconciliation Councillor Reid raised his concern at the amount of information the Co-Op bank require from Councillors and proposed that the Council should look to change banks. The Town Clerk acknowledged that the process is frustrating and will put it on a future Finance Committee agenda for further discussion. Councillor J R Potts said the Council need to be mindful that banks are charging for accounts on a monthly basis.
5.	INTERIM INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT 2016/2017 The Town Clerk referred to the report circulated from the External Auditor, David Wood, who has visited the office on two occasions. Mr Wood notes in his report that he is satisfied with his findings to date.
6.	BDO EXTERNAL REPORT 2015/2016 The Town Clerk presented his report to the Committee and commented that he has taken appropriate action following the minor issues raised in the BDO Report, which was circulated to all Councillors.
7.	COUNCILLOR'S ALLOWANCE The Town Clerk asked Committee to consider the following recommendation outlined in his report. He added that the new policy was agreed in May and comes into effect for 2016/17 but no rollover of unspent amounts will occur because of the May 2017 elections. <i>"It is recommended that the allowance of £1,000 for 2015/16 for the specific councillor be carried forward to 2016/17 because of the breakdown in communication. All the expenditure to be committed by 31 March 2017."</i>

	<p>Councillor J R Potts said he did not agree to changing the rules for one individual Councillor.</p> <p>The Chair asked the Committee to vote on this:</p> <p>Against = 8</p> <p>For = 0</p>
8.	<p>BLYTH SPARTANS ADVERTISING</p> <p>Councillor Gibbs-Barton declared a non-pecuniary interest.</p> <p>The Town Clerk commented that he spoke to the Club and the adverts are fixed displays therefore if the Council wished to advertise different events they would have to get new boards each time.</p> <p>Following discussion the Committee agreed to have one board and look at using the programmes to advertise events as they are taking place.</p>
9.	<p>DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next Meeting of the Finance Committee will be on Thursday, 12 January 2017 at 6.30 pm in the Council Chamber.</p>

MEMBERS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Councillors

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