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**BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee** held in the Council Chamber at Arms Evertyne House on Tuesday 30 June 2016

**Present:**

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

**Also Present:**

**Officers:**

J Hughes Acting Town Clerk

M Hawthorne Committee Clerk

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| **1** | **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**  Councillors: B Elliott, G T Knox, K Nisbet, J Reid, D Rutter |
| **2** | **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS & THE GRANT OF ANY DISPENSATIONS**  None. |
| **3** | **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 3 MAY 2016**    The Committee agreed to **ADOPT** the minutes. |
| **3.1** | **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**  **Part II**  Councillor A Gibbs-Barton asked if a meeting has taken place with the fencing contractors and the Events Co-Ordinator. The Acting Town Clerk agreed to action this and feedback to the next meeting of the Finance Committee. |
| **4** | **ACCOUNTS 2016/2017 (displayed on the board during the meeting)**  Councillor Gibbs-Barton commented that the VAT on the partnership agreement is going to change. |
| **5** | **INTERNAL AUDIT CONTRACTOR**  The Acting Town Clerk advised that the new Internal Auditor, David Wood, has completed his first day’s work at the Council He has previous Local Authority experience, working as an Auditor for Tynedale Council. |
| **6** | **TALL SHIPS BUDGET**  Committee noted that the Council are acting as a high line sponsor and have committed £30,000. Final details will be agreed at an Extraordinary Events Committee on Tuesday 5 July 2016. |
| **7** | **ANNUAL STATEMENTS AND FINAL INTERNAL AUDIT RETURN**  Committee noted the following:   * The Annual Statements and Final Statements were posted to BDO on 26 May 2016. * The notice for the Exercise of Public Rights is on the website and on the notice board and commenced on 3 June 2016. * The Annual Statement is on the website. |
| **8** | **INVESTMENT STRATEGY**  The Acting Town Clerk referred to his report which outlines the guidance by DGLC and his proposals for an investment strategy.  Councillor Potts commented that he would prefer if more money was put into secure property funds.  Committee accepted the report and noted the comments with regard to investments. |
| **9** | **VAT HEALTH CHECK**  The Acting Town Clerk noted that the report from Ernst Young has been circulated. He has written to HMRC to make a voluntary disclosure regarding VAT and is awaiting an outcome. |
| **10** | **DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING**  The next meeting of the Finance Committee will be held on Tuesday, 6 September 2016 in the Council Chamber. |

**MEMBERS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

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| 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 |
| Officers | J Hughes, Acting Town Clerk  S Robinson, Environmental Services Officer  A McCabe, Office Manager  M Hawthorne, Committee Clerk |
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