



Minutes of a Finance Committee Meeting of Northallerton Town Council held at midday on Monday 9th October in the Town Hall

Present: Cllr P Eames (Chairman); Cllr P Atkin, Cllr P Cornfoot, Cllr A Hugill, Cllr C Hutson and Cllr J Hutson.

Also present: Alexandra Robson, Clerk

FC23/009 To receive and consider Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest
All councillors were present and there were no declarations of interest.

FC23/010 To consider if it is necessary to resolve to exclude members of the press and public by virtue of Public (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, due to the confidential nature of any agenda items
It was resolved it was not necessary to exclude members of the press and public

FC23/011 To approve the Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 9th June 2023
It was resolved that the Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 9th June 2023 be approved

FC23/012 To confirm procedure for approval of payments to Help With Watt Ltd
Cllr Eames noted how good it was to see the work done professionally and in a timely way by Help With Watt Ltd.
The process for approval of payments was reviewed and the steps agreed as follows: .

- Invoice sent to the Clerk
- Clerk forward to the Mayor (or Deputy) for authorisation
- Input into Unity for payment by the Clerk
- Invoice circulated to councillors and approved

It was resolved that this process be confirmed as outlined and reviewed at March 2024

FC23/013 To receive feedback from the External Audit 2022 2023

The Clerk gave feedback to the committee on the external audit which had been received. There were no matters for action. Councillors offered thanks to the team for the work leading to this positive feedback.

It was noted that the Conclusion of Audit had been posted on 29th September 2023

FC23/014 To review budget allocation for 2023/2024 to date and agree virements as required

Spend against budget was reviewed by the committee by cost centre and projected income from hall hire and tenancy agreements was considered. The Clerk explained variances to the committee. An increase in staff costs in line with the expected LJC pay award was discussed. Bank Balances were noted as Unity £ 20,246 and HSBC £246,942.

It was resolved that no virements were required

FC23/015 To discuss the status of the National Joint Council Pay Award and agree if Council wishes to make a pay award in advance of this formal decision

Discussion took place around the implementation of a pay award, in advance of the agreement being made between the NJC and Unions. YLCA and the Clerk recommend that no award be made in advance of this agreement, however councillors considered the current cost of living climate and wish to provide staff with this award as soon as possible.

It was resolved that NTC will pay £1,925 (pro rata for part-time employees) to staff in November if the pay award has not been formalised

FC23/016 To consider and agree council priorities for 2024/2025 to support budget preparations

A number of additional cost centres will be created to monitor the cost of the Public Toilets and to track donations.

It was resolved that priorities for 2024/2025 Budget will include:

- Youth Provision - to support disassociated young people through sports activities and other distractions.
- Town Hall Building Ongoing Upgrade
- Events - considering expenditure and collaboration with BID
- Freedom Parade 2024
- Opens Spaces Projects - looking for grants to support these

FC23/017 To confirm the date and time of the next meetings as midday on Monday 13th November

The meeting closed at 1.55pm