



Minutes of a Finance Committee Meeting of Northallerton Town Council held at 13:30 on Wednesday 9th October in the Town Hall

Present: Cllr P Eames, Mayor; Cllr P Akin; Cllr A Hugill; Cllr C Hutson and Cllr J Hutson

Also Present: Alexandra Robson, Clerk

FC24/009 To receive and consider Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

It was resolved that apologise be received and accepted from Cllr P Cornfoot

FC24/010 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 that it was not necessary to exclude members of the press and public

FC24/011 To approve the Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 15th July 2024

It was resolved that the Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 15th July 2024 be approved

FC24/012 Budget

Spend against budget year to date was discussed. It was noted that the payroll bill now includes all staff and the NRJBC portion of this will be transferred to NTC in advance of payment.

A Youth Provision budget of £2,500 had been agreed for this financial year and councillors confirmed their wish to support projects benefiting the young people of the town and will actively research this prior to the next meeting.

It was resolved to vire the New Illuminations budget equally between Town Hall Projects and Public Toilets

FC24/013 Precept 2025 2026

Priorities for expenditure, to enable a recommendation to Full Council for the precept requirement 2025/2026 were discussed in detail:

Events

- Bonfire - It was agreed that sponsorship via poster, banner or leaflet could be increased and the number of traders be reviewed to ensure maximum income was generated to offset the costs of the event. It was noted that the stage and fireworks contract end in 2024 and this will be put back out to tender.
- Remembrance should continue as usual, as this is a vital event for the town.
- Northallerton Christmas Event will be reassessed for 2025 with the view to working with other stakeholders.

Staffing

Given the council's commitment to the opening and cleaning of the Public Toilets for the benefit of the town, intention to develop a business case to take over the running of the markets and undertake other key projects, it was agreed that a review of the staffing structure and pay scale needed to take place.

It is anticipated that the Local Government National Pay Award will be agreed and a minimum amount of 6% needs to be set aside for this.

Public Toilet Provision

There is significant public and business support for the provision of public toilets in Northallerton. These have been an instrumental part of the town Coach Friendly Status award and opening on a Sunday now needs to be considered, along with staff implications of this.

Amenities Areas

- Amenities vehicle costs need to be reduced and a replacement vehicle purchased.
- Play area maintenance and repair works need to be considered.
- Development and maintenance of allotment sites is important.
- Upkeep of the Cemetery will continue via NRJBC.
- Tree works, particularly in Applegarth, are an expected and large expense.

Signed
Chairman
Date



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Town Hall

- Work to increase the lifespan of the windows has been positive but is only a temporary measure.
- The decarbonisation report has given priority areas for the Town Hall building improvements.
- Grants may be available but council is approaching a time where, if these are not secured, a Public Works Loan may need to be an alternative.

Churchyard

As the Town Council is responsible for the closed churchyard some ongoing maintenance is required, including works to the wall. This needs to be accounted for in a future budget.

Income

- Streams of income will continue to be developed.
- Proactive promotion and marketing of the Town Hall has led to increased levels of hire and income, but also staffing requirements.
- Donation points have been placed in the toilets and mobile donation points are to be used for events.
- Traders income is valuable at events.
- Planting Sponsorship has been key over the last two years
- Generating other sponsorship from local businesses may be considered however it is vital that integrity of the council is considered before entering into any partnerships.

1. It was resolved that the Clerk will prepare a draft budget to reflect the areas discussed and bring this to the next meeting for consideration

2. It was resolved that the public toilet provision will continue to be a priority in 2025

FC24/014 Next Meeting

1. It was resolved that the date and time of the next meeting will be scheduled after the Full Council Meeting

2. It was resolved that an additional staffing meeting will be held as soon as possible

The meeting closed at 15:50

Signed
Chairman
Date