

MINUTES of the meeting of the **FINANCE COMMITTEE** held in Room 11 at the Town Hall, at 7.30pm on Monday 28th February 2022.

PRESENT: Councillor Davison (Chair)
Councillors Beardwell, Brown, Bylett, Harrison, Hughes, Leggett, Squire-Smith, Stanier

In attendance: Town Clerk
Town Councillors Inwood and Phillips
County Councillor Hill
District Councillor Green

The Chair welcomed everybody to the meeting and informed those present that the meeting was being recorded. It was noted that Councillor Brown was also recording the meeting.

279/22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

There was none.

280/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

There were none.

281/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS:

Members were advised to declare any interests at the commencement of the relevant item on the agenda. No requests for dispensations were received.

282/22 APPROVAL OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES:

Members **RESOLVED** to approve as a correct record the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on Monday 24th January (minutes 262/22 to 270/22).

The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

283/22 MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTY MEETINGS:

- a) Members **RESOLVED** to receive the notes of the Cave Advisory sub-committee meeting held on 25th January 2022 into the workings of the Council.
- b) Members **RESOLVED** to receive the notes of the Markets Advisory sub-committee meeting held on 28th January 2022 into the workings of the Council.

284/22 BANK RECONCILIATION AND INCOME AND EXPENDITURE:

- a) Members received and noted the Bank Reconciliation for January 2022.
- b) Members received and noted the January Income and Expenditure report compared against budgets for 2021-2022.

285/22 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the February 2022 accounts for payment and the transfers between the Town Council accounts.

286/22 ROYSTON CAVE:

Councillors Bylett, Davison and Leggett declared an interest in this item. Councillor Davison exercised his councillor's right to speak and updated members on the progress of the Museum Trust and also gave more detail on the Cave proposal. Councillors Bylett, Davison and Leggett then left the room and took no part in the debate or vote on this item. Councillor Hughes took over chairmanship for the remainder of this item. There was a lengthy debate. Cllr Squire-Smith proposed an amendment to the motion that the agreement for the Royston Museum Trust to manage Royston Cave

should run until 30th September 2022 and not 31st March 2023. The amended proposal was seconded and the motion was carried with the Chair using his casting vote. Councillors Bylett, Davison and Leggett returned to the room. Councillor Davison resumed the role of chair for the remainder of the meeting.

287/22 PLANTER MAINTENANCE:

Councillors Brown and Harrison declared an interest in this item and took no part in the debate or vote.

Members **RESOLVED** to make a funding contribution of £750 for 2022/2023 towards the maintenance of the planters on the High Street.

288/22 UPDATE ON COUNCIL PROPERTIES:

The Town Clerk gave an update on the following Council Properties:

Plantations:

- Several trees were blown down in the recent storms and a clean-up operation has taken place.

Market Hill Rooms and the Town Hall:

- There have been problems in the kitchen at Market Hill Rooms due to a faulty waste system and boiler issues which have caused damage to the kitchen units, part of the floor and walls. Repairs have been made so that the property is usable but further repairs are needed to make the kitchen fully functional again. Options are being looked at.
- Tiles have come off the roof during the recent storms on both Market Hill Rooms and the Town Hall. These problems are being investigated further.

Offices phones:

- Quotes have been sought for a new VOIP telephone system and this will be installed as soon as possible. The cabling will be installed first and once complete a new telecoms provider will be contracted with. The phones are temporarily being diverted to a mobile phone.

289/22 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS ON TOWN COUNCIL ACTIVITIES AND AS REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS:

Councillor Brown reported that Homestart Royston, Buntingford and South Cambs is doing well despite the increase in demand for their services and will be holding more in-person fundraising events including an event in March.

Councillor Brown also reported that the Conservators of Therfield Heath have built up a surplus of funds and will be using them for various projects to increase both accessibility to the Heath and for community engagement. Councillor Brown additionally gave a report on Town Twinning who are planning a visit to France for members at the end of May.

290/22 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC:

Members **RESOLVED** that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, in the public interest, the public and press be excluded from the remainder of the meeting under the provision of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

291/22 STAFF MATTERS:

- a) Members **RESOLVED** to approve the appointment of a Part Time Receptionist/Administration Assistant, for 25 hours a week, SCP 3 - £12,542 per annum pro rata (18,562 per annum FTE)

- b) Members **RESOLVED** to approve the appointment of part time Cave Guides, £37.50 per guiding session with additional hours at £12.50 for the 2022 season.

Date of next meeting: 28th March 2022.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30pm.

Signed: _____

Date _____