

MINUTES of the meeting of the **FINANCE COMMITTEE** held in Room 11 at the Town Hall, at 7.30pm on Monday 24th April 2023.

PRESENT: Councillor Compton (Chair)
Councillors Antony, Birch, Brown, Harrison, Inwood, Lockett and Squire-Smith

In attendance: Town Clerk

The Chair welcomed everybody to the meeting and reminded Members of the Climate & Biodiversity Emergency declared by Royston Town Council and asked Members to be mindful of this when making decisions on behalf of the Council. The Chair informed those present that the meeting was being recorded.

395/23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

There was none.

396/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Councillor Jani.

397/23 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.

398/23 APPROVAL OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES:

Members **RESOLVED** to approve as a correct record the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on Monday 27th March 2023 (minutes 370/23 to 378/23). The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

399/23 MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTY MEETINGS:

Members received the notes of the Events Working Party meeting held on 27th March 2023 into the workings of the council.

400/23 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

A member asked a question regarding what benefits the council receives from the HAPTC subscription.

The Town Clerk reported that it includes membership to the National Association of Local Councils. This grants the Town Council access to various resources including discounted training courses and both professional and legal advice services which are frequently used. Members **RESOLVED** to approve the April 2023 accounts for payment and the transfers between the Town Council accounts.

401/23 PLAQUE FOR SEAT ON MELBOURN ROAD:

Members **RESOLVED** to agree to pay for a plaque at a cost of £135 for the new seat being installed on Melbourn Road, funded by the Town Council, in honour of the late councillor F John Smith. The inscription will read "F John Smith 1932-2021 - In appreciation and recognition of his service to the community of Royston for over 60 years.

402/23 MUSUEM FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS:

Councillor Squire-Smith recommended that the November CPI figure should be used annually to calculate the uplift in funding in the Museum SLA as it is the last figure that can be used in the financial year before the budget is decided.

Members **RESOLVED** to agree that the November CPI figure is used to determine the uplift in funding each year in the Museum SLA.

Members **RESOLVED** to pay the Museum Trust CIO a payment of £100,737 for 2023/2024 in two equal instalments of £50,368.50 in April and September 2023, in line with the November 2022 CPI figure.

Members **RESOLVED** that a quarterly presentation or report from the Museum Trust CIO should be received at Full Council meetings going forward.

403/23 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.

404/23 ROYSTON PICTURE PALACE CINEMA:

Members **RESOLVED** to agree a course of action and set up a Cinema Working Party. Councillors Antony, Brown, Harrison, Lockett and Squire-Smith were appointed to the working party.

Date of next meeting: 15th May 2023.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.18pm.

Signed: _____

Date _____