

**MINUTES** of the meeting of the **FINANCE COMMITTEE** held in Room 11 at the Town Hall, at 7.30pm on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

**PRESENT:** Councillor Haugh (Chair)  
Councillors Antony, Brown, Harrison, Jani, Lockett and Squire-Smith

**In attendance:** Town Clerk  
Town Councillors Beardwell, Freeman and Rees  
County Councillor Hill  
1 Member of the Public

The Chair welcomed everybody to the meeting and informed those present that the meeting was being recorded. The Chair 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.

**180/24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

There was none.

**181/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Councillors Adams, Compton and Inwood.

**182/24 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.

**183/24 APPROVAL OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES:**

Members **RESOLVED** to approve as a correct record the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023 (minutes 154/24 to 164/24). The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

**184/24 MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTY MEETINGS:**

- a) Members received the notes of the Senior Committee Working Party meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023 into the workings of the council.
- b) Members received the notes of the Markets Advisory Sub-Committee meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023 into the workings of the council.
- c) Members received the notes of the Cave Advisory Sub-Committee meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023 into the workings of the council.
- d) Members received the notes of the Events Working Party meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023 into the workings of the council.
- e) Members received the notes of the Cinema Working Party meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023 into the workings of the council.

**185/24 BANK RECONCILIATION AND INCOME AND EXPENDITURE:**

- i) Members received and noted the Bank Reconciliation for September 2023.
- ii) Members received and noted the September 2023 Income and Expenditure reports compared against budgets for 2023-2024.

**186/24 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:**

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the October 2023 accounts for payment and the transfers between the Town Council accounts.

**187/24 ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE INTERNAL AUDIT CONTROLS:**

Members **RESOLVED** to appoint Councillors Antony, Brown and Haugh to the working party to review the effectiveness of the Council's system of internal audit controls.

**188/24 LOAN OF MAY FAYRE CUPS TO OTHER COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS FOR EVENTS:**

This motion was withdrawn as the proposer was not present at the meeting.

**189/24 ROYSTON PICTURE PALACE:**

Members **RESOLVED** to waive hall hire costs for cinema showings until the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2023.

**190/24 ROYSTON FIRST BID:**

Councillors Antony and Brown declared an interest in this item and left the room during the debate and vote.

Members **RESOLVED** to vote Yes to the Royston First BID ballot to grant them another five-year term.

**191/24 ROYSTON TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY CONSULTATION:**

The Chair allowed Councillor Rees to speak and he provided more detail on this proposal. Members **RESOLVED** to approve an increase of £1,000 to the budget for the Community Consultation.

**192/24 SPONSORSHIP OF CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON:**

This motion was withdrawn as the proposer was not present at the meeting.

**193/24 NORTH HERTS COUNCIL UNCONTESTED ELECTIONS FEE:**

Councillor Brown declared an interest in this item and left the room during the debate and vote.

Members **RESOLVED** to agree to respond that the council had no objection to the proposal by North Herts Council to introduce an uncontested election fee.

Councillor Harrison wished to have it noted that he objected to the proposal on the basis that as the Vice-Chairman of HAPTC, he knew that many parish councils would struggle financially to pay these fees.

**194/24 FLAGS:**

Councillor Brown proposed an amendment that a German flag should also be purchased. The Town Clerk explained that the Town Council already had a German flag and a second one was not needed and it would contravene the council's environmental policy.

Councillor Lockett seconded the proposal but it was not carried.

Members **RESOLVED** to:

1. Purchase French and Spanish flags.
2. Purchase both flags from Flying Colours Flagmakers in applique sewn quality.
3. Fly them in Großalmerode Gardens in accordance with North Herts Council policy during visits from our twin towns.

**195/24 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS ON TOWN COUNCIL ACTIVITIES AND AS REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS:**

There were none.

Date of next meeting: 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.01pm.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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