

**MINUTES** of the meeting of the **FINANCE COMMITTEE** held in Room 11 at the Town Hall, at 7.30pm on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

**PRESENT:** Councillor Compton (Chair)  
Councillors Adams, Haugh, Harrison, 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.

**301/24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Town Councillor Rees spoke about the proposals to be considered by members in agenda item 7, War Memorial. He reported that the absence of lighting at the War Memorial was first brought to the attention of the Events Working Party and that a brief investigation was carried out in response to this. It was discovered that there was no source of electricity to the memorial and that further investigation should be carried out to see whether an electric feeder pillar could be installed to create a source of electricity with the view to restore its lighting. He also informed members that the War Memorial could do with a deep clean as well as a regular schedule of general cleans going forward.

**302/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Councillors Antony, Brown, Inwood and Jani.

**303/24 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.

**304/24 APPROVAL OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES:**

Members **RESOLVED** to approve as a correct record the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023 (minutes 232/24 to 241/24). The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

The Chair brought forward agenda item 7, War Memorial, for discussion as the next item.

**305/24 WAR MEMORIAL:**

- a) Members **RESOLVED** to approve that further investigation should be carried out to see whether an electric feeder pillar can be installed, so that lighting can be restored to the Memorial.
- b) Members **RESOLVED** to approve that Officers take professional advice with a view to obtaining quotes for a deep clean of the Memorial annually between 15<sup>th</sup> October and 1<sup>st</sup> November plus a general clean on a three-monthly basis.

**306/24 MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTY MEETINGS:**

- a) Members received the notes of the Markets Advisory Sub-Committee meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023 into the workings of the council.
- b) Members received the notes of the Events Working Party meetings held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023 and 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024 into the workings of the council.

- c) Members received the notes of the Cinema Working Party meetings held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023, 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024 and 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024 into the workings of the council.
- d) Members to receive the notes of the Cave Advisory Sub-Committee meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024 in the workings of the council.

**307/24 BANK RECONCILIATION AND INCOME AND EXPENDITURE:**

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

**308/24 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:**

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the January 2024 and February 2024 accounts for payment and the transfers between the Town Council accounts.

**309/24 STAFF MATTERS:**

Members noted the appointment of a Cave Manager after undertaking the TUPE process at a rate of pay of £13.50 per hour.

**310/24 SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL TOWN BUS WORKSHOP:**

Members **RESOLVED** to agree to waive the booking fees of £85.50 for the hire of the Heritage Hall on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024 for a Bus Workshop organised by HCC and NHC as part of the Sustainable Travel Town programme.

**311/24 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS ON TOWN COUNCIL ACTIVITIES AND AS REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS:**

There were none.

Date of next meeting: 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.52pm.

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_