

MINUTES of the meeting of the **FINANCE COMMITTEE** held in Room 11 at the Town Hall, at 7.30pm on Monday 28th October 2024.

PRESENT: Councillor Haugh (Chair)
Councillors Adams, Antony, Harrison, Jani, Lockett and Rees

In attendance: Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk
Town Councillor Freeman
County Councillor Hill
District Councillor May
13 members 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.

182/25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Two members of the public spoke on the subject of Royston Picture Palace and a representative from CADS gave more information about their request to stage their 2026 pantomime in the Town Hall.
The Chair thanked them for their statements.

183/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Councillors Brown, Inwood and Squire-Smith.

184/25 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.

185/25 APPROVAL OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES:

Members **RESOLVED** to approve as a correct record the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on Monday 30th September 2024 (minutes 145/25 to 159/25). The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

186/25 MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTY MEETINGS:

Members received the notes of the Events Advisory Sub-committee meeting held on 8th October 2024 into the workings of the council.

187/25 BANK RECONCILIATION AND INCOME AND EXPENDITURE:

- 1) Members received and noted the Bank Reconciliation for September 2024.
- 2) Members received and noted the September 2024 Income and Expenditure report compared against budgets for 2024-2025.

188/25 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

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

189/25 ANNUAL REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS OF THE INTERNAL AUDIT CONTROLS:

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

190/25 HIRE OF THE TOWN HALL BY CADS FOR THE 2026 PANTOMIME:

Members **RESOLVED** to agree that CADS could use the Town Hall for the 2026 pantomime.

191/25 CINEMA WORKING PARTY:

Members **RESOLVED** to disband the cinema working party with immediate effect.

A recorded vote was requested. Councillors Adams, Antony, Harrison, Haugh, Jani and Rees voted for the proposal and Councillor Lockett voted against the proposal.

192/25 BANK SIGNATORIES:

Members **RESOLVED** to add Councillor Rees as a bank signatory on the Town Council bank accounts and remove Adam Compton as signatory.

193/25 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS ON TOWN COUNCIL ACTIVITIES AND AS REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS:

There were none.

194/25 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.

195/25 ROYSTON PICTURE PALACE:

Councillor Rees declared an interest in this item, left the room and took no part in the debate or vote.

Members **RESOLVED** to instruct officers to further investigate the proposal for a third party to run the cinema and report back to the Finance Committee at a later date.

Councillor Rees returned to the room for the remainder of the meeting.

Date of next meeting: 25th November 2024

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.35pm.

Signed: _____

Date _____