

WIGTON TOWN COUNCIL

A MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WAS

HELD ON 3RD FEBRUARY 2024 AT 6:00PM

PRESENT

Councillors Scott, Jackson, McCarthy, Hodson, Stapley and Ferriby

Clerk: Emma Ireton

FIN/32/2024 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES & RECORD REASONS FOR ABSENCE

None

FIN/33/2024 MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes from the finance meeting held on 29th January - **Agreed**

FIN/34/2024 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/DISPENSATIONS

None

FIN/35/2024 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

None

FC/36/2024 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

To receive any representations from members of the public – Members of the public are invited to speak for a maximum of 5 minutes each. The maximum total time for public participation will be 10 minutes. At the close of this item, members of the public will no longer be permitted to address the Council Members unless invited to do so by the Chairman.

FIN/37/2024 FINANCIAL POSITION

Members received an update on the current position, the estimated closing balance will be approximately £115,000.

The clerk/RFO spoke about the seven bank accounts that the council currently have, explaining that several of them have small balances and one has a zero balance. It was also reported that the capital account was a regular account and not a savings account and if it were a savings account it would make more interest.

RESOVLED

Members agreed for the clerk/RFO to investigate bank accounts and options and report back to the committee with more information.

The clerk/RFO was asked if the council tax base figure had been shared by the Cumberland Council yet? **ACTION** – Clerk/RFO will report this information back to the committee at the next meeting.

Finance members received a recommendation from the Staffing, Policy and Development Committee that the temporary member of the park maintenance team be made a permanent member of the team.

RESOLVED

Vote was UNANIMOUS to change the contract to a permanent contract.

FIN/38/2024 WIGTON PARK BOWLING CLUB

Cllr Ferriby shared an email sent by Wigton Park Bowling Club, the email mentioned several repairs that had not yet been undertaken, and which are having an impact on their club. Members were informed that Cllr Ferriby had met with the clerk/RFO to discuss and compiled a response back to the club, this was then shared with members of this committee.

Repair of toilet block – the club were disappointed that there had been no progress made as the repairs were agreed several years ago. In the response back to the club, they were told that due to the size of the project and significant costs, the town council would need to earmark reserves over a couple of years to be able to pay for the repairs. It was stated that there would be £30k net available in the 2025/2026 budget. One quote had been submitted which indicated that the cost will be around £30k, therefore the formal tender process would need to be followed.

Signage – the club asked when signage would be installed. Members were informed that it is necessary for the clerk/RFO to arrange for signage now rather than waiting to hear if the Borderlands project was successful which was the original plan.

ACTION – Office staff to arrange for both the bowling club and toilets signage to be displayed at Barton Laws.

Doors and windows – the club reported that both required replacing. The response to the club explained that this was a new issue that had not yet been reported therefore it hadn't yet been budgeted for. Unless it becomes a safety issue then this will be budgeted for in 2026/2027.

Guttering – this required replacing. **ACTION** – it was agreed office staff can collect quotes for the work to be carried out as soon as possible.

Solar lights – not enough in the park. **ACTION** – it was agreed to purchase more.

FIN/38/2024 GRANT APPLICATIONS

Applications from the following organisations were discussed:

Wigton Cricket Club who requested £125 for equipment.

Healthy Hopes who requested £500 to help towards running costs.

Wigton Bowling Club who requested £400 to help purchase crockery and equipment used for private functions.

RESOLVED

All applications were approved with the sum of money requested being granted.

FIN/39/2024 WEBSITE

The clerk discussed the issues with the current website and its vulnerabilities, members were notified that there is some funding available to purchase .gov domains. Members were also reminded that the internal auditor in 2022 recommended the Town Council have a new website as the current one was not easy to use and clunky. Members were advised that the Assistant Clerk was in talks with the web developer who created Aspatria Town Council's new website but as he was on holiday he hadn't yet sent over any estimates.

This item was then deferred until prices were obtained.

Date of next meeting: Monday 3rd March 2025