

WIGTON TOWN COUNCIL

A MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WAS

HELD ON 7th NOVEMBER 2024 AT 6:00PM

PRESENT

Councillors Scott, Jackson, McCarthy, Hodson and Ferriby

Clerk: Emma Ireton

FIN/26/2024 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES & RECORD REASONS FOR ABSENCE

None

FIN/27/2024 MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

No previous meeting - 21st October 2024 meeting not quorate.

FIN/28/2024 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/DISPENSATIONS

Cllr Hodson declared an interest in agenda item 6.

FIN/29/2024 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Part of item 6 – staffing costs.

FC/30/2024 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/31/2024 DRAFT BUDGET 2025/2026

The meeting on the 21st October did not go ahead as it was not quorate, however the attending members did discuss several of the budget lines, but they were agreed as no decisions could be made. At this finance meeting, members were provided with a draft 2025/2026 budget which contained amendments from the previous meeting on 23rd September 2024 and suggestions from the non-quorate meeting on the 21st October.

Members went through the budget to decrease some of the expenditure lines around projects, this was essential to ensure the precept was not significantly higher than the previous year which would increase band D Council Tax rates.

Amendments included:

It was agreed that Wigton Baths would receive a £10,000 grant which would help pay for their operating expenses such as wages.

Grants and Donations would be increased to £10,000 although a cap of £1000 will be introduced.

One member requested the introduction of an awards evening where people in Wigton would be recognised for their contributions towards Wigton. It was agreed that this type of event required a lot of planning and if full council agreed, it should be regular and not a one-off event. To keep the budget line, open it was agreed to allocate £100.

Earmarked reserves included:

St Mary's Church – Flagstones may need to be repaired or repointed. A quote would be required to understand what is required, £500 was allocated in the interim.

£6000 was allocated for Barton Laws so furniture and fittings could be purchased. These items will not be purchased until there is a plan for the building.

Under projects, £35000 was allocated for Wigton Park toilets. This includes £17000 which was earmarked in 2024/2025. Councillors asked whether if there should be a cost for using the toilets. **ACTION** – To research the cost of installing a payment system.

Meeting closed 19:09

Date of next meeting: 10th December 2024 at 5pm.