

**WIGTON TOWN COUNCIL**

**A MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WAS**

**HELD ON MONDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2022 AT 6:00PM**

**PRESENT**

Councillors Scott, Ferriby, Jackson and Hodson.

**FIN/34/2022 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES & RECORD REASONS FOR ABSENCE**

Councillors Lynch, Robbins, Ireton

**FIN/35/2022 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/DISPENSATIONS**

None

**FIN/36/2022 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

None

**FIN/37/2022 BUDGETS**

Cllr Ferriby opened the meeting by setting out the purpose of this meeting which was to review the 23/34 budget which has been started but each line now needed to be gone through as there were some anomalies.

Before the budget was reviewed Cllr Hodson asked who the cleaners were for the public toilets as they were still open and someone was kicking the door of the toilets.

**ACTION – Ask EI to contact the cleaners and ask why they are still open at 6pm.**

The budget was gone through line by line and anomalies were queried.

While the draft budget was detailed and annotated there were still some questions. Expenditure was looked at first, it was noted that the wages for the first six months of 22/23 was more than expected, the estimated wage cost by the 31<sup>st</sup> March is £24000 more than estimated. The estimated wages costs for 23/34 therefore may not seem accurate. **ACTION – EI to revise the estimated wages.**

There was a discussion around Dalston and whether it is financially viable to continue with the contract after it expires. Cllr Hodson asked whether we need to replace the member of the park staff that left, especially if the Dalston contract isn't continued with.

The contract with Orian was mentioned, would it be possible to look for a new contractor to save money and improve the service?

Next expenditure line was around rent and room hire, it was suggested again the Market Hall was only used for FC meetings.

There were questions around the machine maintenance and contract maintenance that need to be confirmed by EI. **ACTION – Revise this budget line and confirm with councillors.** It was also pointed out that there was a line on the 22/23 budget for £13000 that had not been spent, this needs to be clarified. **ACTION – EI to revise and provide explanation.**

The next expenditure line had £2000 for the Bowling club. It was questioned what this was for?

The biggest query was around festivals as this year had a £35000 overspend. There needed to be an explanation of the amount of £23000 as this is significantly lower than what the actual spend was for 22/23. It was mentioned that festivals need to meet to confirm and agree on what events will take place over the year and agree on how much will be spent. It was suggested not doing the Spring Fling as it generated no money and wasn't an event for the majority of Wigton. It was noted that all events should try and generate money where possible

Cllr Ferriby mentions that due to overspend in some cost centres the committee need to look at ways of saving money.

Cllr Hodson arrived at 6:40pm due to a misunderstanding around what time the meeting started. A revised time was sent then changed back again.

Four quotes were provided around the tree works at St Marys/Procter's Row.

Cllr Scott suggests leaving the new website for the time being in order to save money.

It was agreed that Cllr Ferriby would contact EI to resolve the anomalies and queries.

### **FIN/38/2022 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting – Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023 at 6pm.

Meeting Closed at 6:54pm.