

## **BILLINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL**

### **Draft Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 6.30 p.m. at Billingham Library & Customer Service Centre**

**Present: Councillor**      Jim Scollen (Chairman)  
                                 Adam Gilburt  
                                 Gina McCall  
                                 Marc Besford  
                                 Ann McCoy  
                                 Clare Besford  
                                 Helen Atkinson

**Official:**                      Miss Dee Smith, Town Clerk/RFO

**Apologies:**                Cllr Colin Leckonby – Personal  
                                 Cllr Guy Snead – Personal

One member of the public was also present.

#### **138/24      CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT**

The usual rules about housekeeping were made.

#### **139/24      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations on this occasion.

#### **140/24      PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME**

There were no public questions on this occasion.

#### **141/24      MINUTES OF FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES MEETING HELD ON 17<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2024**

Members were asked to approve the above minutes.

#### **RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the above meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2024, a copy of

**Signed..... Date .....**  
**Chairman of Finance & General Purposes Committee**

which has previously been circulated to each member, be approved, and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

**142/24 PAYMENTS & RECEIPTS LISTS**

Members were asked to approve the following:

- (i) Payments to creditors for December 2024 for the main account.
- (ii) Payments to creditors for December 2024 for the cafe account.
- (iii) Staffing costs for December 2024.
- (vi) To note the income received for December 2024.
- (vii) Members were provided for information, with the bank reconciliation for all accounts up to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024.

**RESOLVED**

- a. Members approved the above reports.
- b. Councillor Clare Besford checked and signed the bank reconciliations.

**143/24 CAFÉ IN THE PARK – PROFIT & LOSS REPORT**

Members were presented with a profit and loss report for the Café in the Park, up to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024.

**RESOLVED**

Information duly noted.

**144/24 INCOME & EXPENDITURE**

Members were presented with the Income & Expenditure report for the Café in the Park, up to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024. The Clerk explained the highlighted overspends on the report.

**RESOLVED**

Information duly noted.

**145/24 DRAFT BUDGET 2025-2026**

Members were asked to consider the draft budget for 2025-2026 for recommendation to Full Council in January 2025.

**RESOLVED**

Signed..... Date .....  
Chairman of Finance & General Purposes Committee

To recommend the draft budget for 2025-2026 to the Full Council meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2025 for approval.

**146/24 OFFICE BROADBAND ISSUES**

The Town Clerk advised members about ongoing broadband issues in the Town Council office. Currently the average download speed is approximately 2 mbps, which is inadequate for the council's needs. The council's IT provider is actively working on a solution. They have recently installed a leased line at Billingham Library for Xentrall at Stockton Borough Council which presents a potential opportunity for the Town Council.

The IT provider is in the process of contacting Xentrall to explore the opportunity of the Town Council 'piggybacking' on this newly installed connection. This line guarantees a download speed of 100 mbps, significantly improving the current situation.

There would be no additional cost for the Town Council to utilise this connection, however, it would necessitate signing a new three year contract.

The Town Clerk emphasised that seeking quotations from other providers would be futile, as all would encounter the same connections issues stemming from the existing lines into the building.

**RESOLVED**

To contact Xentrall to establish if the Town Council can 'piggyback' on the existing leased line into Billingham Library.

The meeting concluded at 7.00 pm with Councillors Scollen, Atkinson, C Besford, M Besford, Gilbert, McCall and McCoy present.

Signed..... Date .....  
Chairman of Finance & General Purposes Committee