

BILLINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 18th February 2025 at 6.30 p.m. at Billingham Library & Customer Service Centre

Present: Councillor Adam Gilburt
Gina McCall
Ann McCoy
Colin Leckonby
Helen Atkinson
Guy Snead (Vice Chairman)

Official: Miss Dee Smith, Town Clerk/RFO

Apologies: Cllr Clare Besford – Business
Cllr Marc Besford – Business
Cllr Jim Scollen

Nigel Jessop from Stockton Volunteer Drivers Service was also in attendance.

In the absence of the Chair, Cllr Guy Snead assumed the chair.

154/24 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The usual rules about housekeeping were made.

155/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs McCoy and Leckonby declared a personal interest in agenda item 8a – Sponsorship – members of Billingham Legacy Foundation.

156/24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME

Nigel Jessop, volunteer at Stockton Volunteer Drivers Service gave a short presentation on the work carried out by the service.

At this point of the agenda, members agreed to bring forward agenda item 8a – Sponsorship (Volunteering Matters).

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

157/24 SPONSORSHIP

Members considered a sponsorship application from Volunteering Matters for £4000 to support the Stockton Volunteer Drivers Service.

RESOLVED

- a. To vire £1000 from the Grants budget to the Sponsorship budget.
- b. To award £4000 sponsorship.

*Cllrs McCoy & Leckonby declared a personal interest in this matter.
Nigel Jessop left the meeting.*

158/24 MINUTES OF FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES MEETING HELD ON 14th JANUARY 2025

Members were asked to approve the above minutes.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the above meeting held on 14th January 2025, a copy of which has previously been circulated to each member, be approved, and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

159/24 PAYMENTS & RECEIPTS LISTS

Members were asked to approve the following:

- (i) Payments to creditors for January 2025 for the main account.
- (ii) Payments to creditors for January 2025 for the cafe account.
- (iii) Staffing costs for January 2025.
- (vi) To note the income received for January 2025.
- (vii) Members were provided for information, with the bank reconciliation for all accounts up to 31st January 2025.

RESOLVED

- a. Members approved the above reports.
- b. Councillor Ann McCoy checked and signed the bank reconciliations.

160/24 CAFÉ IN THE PARK – PROFIT & LOSS REPORT

Members were presented with a profit and loss report for the Café in the Park, up to 31st January 2025.

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

RESOLVED

Information duly noted.

161/24 SPONSORSHIP

Members were asked to consider a sponsorship application from the Billingham International Folklore Festival of World Dance.

RESOLVED

To refer to the April 2025 meeting of this committee.

162/24 BANK CHARGES – LLOYDS BANK

Members were advised that from January 2025, the Town Council would be charged £8.50 per month for the maintenance fee of the Lloyds Bank account. Charges for day-to-day banking have also come into effect, however, the Town Council receives 100 free electronic payments a month, which includes direct debits, standing orders and faster payments.

RESOLVED

Information duly noted.

163/24 OFFICE BROADBAND ISSUES

The Town Clerk advised members that the existing office IT issues continue. Xentrall has contacted the office and are setting up a separate security identifier from the existing network in the library. This will be password protected. A wireless dongle for the networked computer and printer will also be supplied. There will be no cost for this service and no commitment however, there will be a charge of approximately £10 for each dongle. This will implemented next week.

The Town Council is currently under contract with Aspire Technology Solutions until November 2026 for the broadband and October 2027 for the VOIP lines.

The Town Clerk also advised members that the monthly invoice has increased approximately £400 per month because Aspire have not been charging fully for the realCare server and user service since the contract began.

RESOLVED

- a. Information duly noted.
- b. To ensure that the new network is secure and hidden.

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

- c. To find out if realCARE server and user service is required for all users.

The meeting concluded at 7.11 pm with Councillors, Atkinson, Gilbert, McCall, McCoy, Leckonby and Snead present.

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