

Minutes of the **RESOURCES COMMITTEE** held on **WEDNESDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2024** at **6.00pm** at **Ferryhill Town Hall**.

PRESENT: Councillor: C Atkinson (Vice-Chair)

Councillors: P Atkinson, C Bihari, S Bowron, K Conroy, J Donald

Officials: L Owens, Town Clerk
D.Shingleton, Accountant

R.40.23-24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors D Farry, L Fellows, S Jones & J Makepeace.

R.41.23-24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations.

R.42.23-24 MEMBERS DISPENSATION

There were no members dispensations in relation to any item of business on the agenda.

R.43.23-24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was one member of the public present but no public participation.

R.44.23-24 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND INCOME

Consideration was given to the Statement of Accounts & Income which had previously been circulated.

The following queries were raised by Councillor S Bowron:

Defty's Invoice – various items

The Clerk advised that this would be for things like locks and keys but she would look into it and get an itemised list and report back to members.

Mobile Phone charges – how many handsets were these charges for and would it not be cheaper to have pay as you go sim cards.

The Clerk advised that this has previously been reported to members and she was sure it covers 8 handsets, but she would check.

Edf – could Council look into changing supplier for a better deal?

The Clerk advised that Durham County Council deal with Councils energy bills and are currently on a good deal, there is currently a rolling programme in place to look for best deal.

TV Licence – why does the Town Hall need a licence?

The Clerk advised she would look into this, Councillor C Bihari re-called that the Town Council had previously received a letter advising that a TV licence was needed and to avoid receiving a hefty fine the Council now pay for an annual licence.

Allotment Reserves on trial balance – are there any plans for this to be spent?

Mr Shingleton advised that he had mentioned this at a previous meeting and this would be looked at during the year end process. Councillor C Bihari informed members that he had met with the Works Manager and she was looking into improvements needed to allotments and a report would be coming back to the next Community Services meeting.

Fireworks – why was this so much?

Mr D Shingleton advised the figure on the Statement of Accounts included VAT. The Clerk advised that additionally we will try and ensure that future invoices are itemised to enable Members to see exactly what we are charged for as part of this event.

Training Courses – what training courses?

The Clerk advised that outside staff had recently undertaken various training courses.

Replace Manhole Cover – why was this required?

The Clerk advised that the drains at Dean Bank were constantly getting blocked, so this was investigated, the drains were cleared out and it was found the manhole cover was the wrong size and needed replacing as well as being a trip hazard.

Councillor K Conroy suggested that if any Member had a query regarding an item on the Statement of Accounts they should email the Clerk a couple of days prior to the meeting to allow her to look into it and provide an answer at the meeting.

Moved by Councillor P Atkinson, **Seconded by** Councillor K Conroy to accept the Statement of Accounts and Income.

RESOLVED

That the Statement of Accounts and Income be received.

R.45.23-24 BUDGETARY CONTROL TO 31 DECEMBER 2023

Members considered a report from the Accountant which had previously been circulated.

Councillor Bihari queried how our current position reflects on previous years, Mr Shingleton advised that each year is different, the last major underspend was during Covid when no events were held etc, however a reasonable underspend would be between 2% and 5%.

The Clerk informed Members that a number of vehicle leases are coming to an end and this means that some savings will be made in the future.

Mr Shingleton advised Members that he is also planning to produce a capital programme for the next three years and advised that this will allow the Council to better plan for the future as this programme will identify when vehicles for example need replacing and this will allow vehicles to be replaced on a phased basis rather than all at once.

Mr Shingleton was thanked for an excellent report.

Moved by Councillor C Bihari, **Seconded by** Councillor K Conroy to accept the recommendations of the report.

RESOLVED

That Members note the financial position of the Council at 31 December 2023, the financial projection for the year and the situation at 31 March 2024

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 6.20pm.

CERTIFIED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIR.....

DATE.....