

Minutes of the **RESOURCES COMMITTEE** held on **WEDNESDAY 15th October 2025** at **6.00pm** at **Ferryhill Town Hall, Chapel Terrace, Ferryhill.**

PRESENT: Councillors: Councillor C Bihari (Chair)
C Atkinson, A Ferguson, C Johnson, J Lathan, J Quinn

Officials: L Owens, Town Clerk

R.15-25-26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies, all Members were present.

R.16.25-26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations.

R.17.25-26 MEMBERS DISPENSATION

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

R.18.25-26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were 2 members of the public present but they had no questions in relation to any agenda items.

R.19.26-26 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS & INCOME

Members considered the Statement of Accounts & Income.

Councillor C Johnson queried the Invested monies returned from CCLA on the Statement of Income – the Clerk advised that the Council are unable to have all money in one account and therefore invest the money at a good rate.

The following queries were raised by Councillor J Quinn:

- August page 3 - Sthil Blower – is this brand new, the Clerk said she believed it was but she would double check.
- Page 4 – Gas Sports Facility - what is this? The Clerk advised it is the Sports Facility at Dean Bank
- Page 5 – Keys, padlock, solvent – this is a recurring bill why do we buy so many keys, do they get lost? The Clerk advised the keys are for allotments, supplied to tenants at a charge.
- Page 8 – MRM Repairs to tractor – Is this the new tractor and if so why does it need repairing?
- Page 8 – Pass FM – What is this and why is the Bowls Pavilion so high, the Clerk advised this is for the electrical inspection testing on buildings, she did try to get more quotes
- Page 9 – Remove damaged tree – why are we using Peterlee Town Council for such work, is there not a more local Council able

to carry out work? The Clerk advised that Peterlee Town Council carry out our grass cutting and therefore they were asked to deal with the tree. There is a member of staff trained to do this however, this wasn't possible due to sick leave. The Works Manager has been made aware of some free training and plans to get 2 more staff trained. Councillor Quinn queried if the grass is being cut by Peterlee Town Council why do our mowers etc need repairing. Members were made aware that there is a grass cutting report on the agenda for the next Council meeting.

- Page 11 – Line marker for pitches – is this a new line marker – The Clerk thought this might be for line marking paint, but she would check this out.
- Sept page 1 – 2 personal alarms – what is this – the Clerk advised this was for staff when lone working.
- Page 3 – Bacchanalia Christmas Fayre Advert – the Clerk advised this company are doing the stalls at the Christmas Fayre and providing posters etc.
- Page 10 – Treadmark Tyres – new wheel and tyre fitted – why did we need a new wheel was it beyond repair and do we have a contract for such things or would it be worth looking into this, the Clerk agreed to look into this.

Councillor J Lathan queried the union contribution to Unison – why are the Council paying union contributions for employees? Councillor C Atkinson advised the meeting that it is normal practice for any deductions to be taken from an employees pay and the Employer would then pay the contributions to the Union, the Clerk confirmed she would look into this.

RESOLVED

That the Statement of Accounts & Income be received, the Clerk to look at the queries raised and report back.

R.20.26-26 BUDGETARY CONTROL TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2025 AND BUDGET UPDATE

Members considered a report which was previously circulated.

The Town Clerk presented the report and members were invited to ask questions:

Councillor J Quinn queried if the marketing help by DCC Officer Julie Anson had been fruitful, the Clerk confirmed it has and both kiosks have now been let with the new businesses opening in November, 1 tenant already has an established business in the Town and the other has had similar businesses to the one they will be doing in the Kiosk. Once both tenants are set up in the Kiosks the Clerk will make an announcement via press releases.

Concerns were raised by members that works had not started on the Station toilets even though this work had been agreed 6 months ago and a Contractor was appointed. The Clerk advised that the same contractor was currently working on the installation of toilets at Duncombe Cemetery and had ran into some issues. Members queried if the works had been paid for. The Clerk confirmed that although payment has been made for the toilets at Duncombe Cemetery a retention fee had been kept back, and no payment had yet been made for the Station toilets.

Members queried if another contractor can be appointed for the works on the station toilets, the Clerk advised that because the price for this work had already been made public it would not be normal practice to re-appoint a contractor, however she would chase up the works and provide an update.

It was suggested that in future a Clerk of Works be appointed for large projects and this be written into the contract under 'part b' in private.

Councillor Bihari brought up Heading 3 of the report regarding reserves and asked if this could be split to show the recommended minimum amount and also the amount of general reserves that is available to spend.

For the benefit of new Councillor, C Johnson and the members of the public present, Councillor Bihari explained about how the Council decided to pay off the interest of the PWLB loan, explaining that for all the Council would receive a decent rate of interest if this money was in the Council's bank it still worked out cheaper to pay this interest and by paying off the loan early meant that the Council wouldn't have to find the £11,500 annual amount for the interest repayment in the next financial year.

RESOLVED

That:

- i) Members note the financial position of the Council at 30 September 2025 and the financial projection for the year to 31 March 2026.
- ii) The Clerk chase up the works on the Station toilets
- iii) A Clerk of Works be appointed to large projects to ensure any issues are raised and corrected as soon as possible
- iv) The Clerk adjusts the reserves table to show the amount of reserves currently available to spend and a separate line on the reserves table showing the recommended minimum reserves we have available.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 6.35pm.

CERTIFIED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIR.....

DATE.....