

BUDLEIGH SALTERTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Finance Committee held in the Council Offices, Station Road, Budleigh Salterton on Monday 27 March 2023 on the rising of the Town Council.

Meeting commenced at 7.44pm.

PRESENT

Cllr D J Hayward (Chairman, Deputy Town Mayor)

Cllr M C Hilliar (Town Mayor)

Cllr A L Jones

Cllr Mrs M P Lewis

Town Clerk: Mrs J E Vanstone

Others Present: Cllr A F Chaplin, Cllr R J Doorbar, Cllr Mrs L D Evans, Cllr R A Harris, Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt and Cllr D Tate

22.457 Public Speaking Time

No Members of the public wished to speak.

22.458 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr A J Harris and Cllr R D Sherriff.

22.459 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance Committee held on 14 November 2022 had been circulated prior to the Meeting. It was unanimously agreed they be signed as a true record.

22.460 Chairman's Report

The Chairman said he did not have a great deal to report. The Council's finances were good and funds in hand were up by approximately 13% on this time last year. This was due to good housekeeping and the fact that not as many projects had been undertaken, although the Council was in a position to go ahead with projects when ready.

22.461 Income & Expenditure 2022/23

Details of the Income and Expenditure for the period 1 April 2022 to 28 February 2023 had been circulated prior to the Meeting.

The Chairman asked if anyone had any questions.

- Cllr Mrs M P Lewis asked what had surprised him the most during the preceding year. The Chairman said he was most surprised at the Public Hall income. He said the Hall had been excellently managed and repairs kept to a minimum.
- Cllr Mrs Lewis then asked what was the biggest risk. The Chairman said this was the volatility of the markets plus the threat of the war in Ukraine, the return of Covid and the cost of utilities. He said the funds with CCLA had dropped but he felt this was just a short term issue.
- Cllr R J Doorbar asked if there was any way of comparing this Council's finances to others in the area. The Chairman said this was difficult. The Clerk added that not all Councils have the same liabilities (allotments, halls, cemeteries etc) and therefore one would not be comparing against the same thing.
- The Chairman commented that the amount of expenditure for the Town Handyman had exceeded budgets but he felt this was worthwhile and residents were noticing what Alec was doing and were even contacting the Clerk will additional tasks!

- Cllr Mrs Lewis asked why Item 730 Miscellaneous was over budget. The Clerk explained that this was partly due to the purchase of the Jubilee Plinth and replacement covers for the town defibrillators.
- Cllr R J Doorbar asked if the Council was audited. The Clerk explained that there was an internal audit, undertaken by Westcotts Accountants, and an external audit undertaken by PKF Littlejohn, adding that this work would be starting in the coming week.
- Cllr Mrs Lewis commented on the amount in the Lloyds Business Account and wondered if such a large amount was usual. The Chairman said that he had considered increasing the amount invested with CCLA but their terms had changed. He would give this some more thought in the new financial year. The Clerk added that she and the Chairman had discussed the CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund.
- The Town Mayor, Cllr M C Hilliar commented that it was good to see the Norman Centre income increasing. The Clerk said the rooms were being used more.

22.462 Any Other Business at the Chairman’s Discretion

- Cllr R J Doorbar thanked the Chairman and the Clerk for all they do to keep the Council’s finances in good order. The Chairman said he and the Clerk had a good working relationship. The Clerk added that Council finances were unlike regular business finances and they took some getting used to!

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 8.02pm.

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Chairman

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Date