

**MINUTES OF THE WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD
AT UNTIED REFORMED CHURCH HALL ON TUESDAY 16 JANUARY 2024 AT 5.30PM**

PRESENT: Councillor A Govier (Chair),
Councillors M Barr, C Govier, J Lloyd, M McGuffie and J Thorne

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor J Cole
Alice Kendall – Deputy Clerk/Deputy RFO
Annette Kirk – Assets and Events Officer

One member of the press
Three members of the public

424 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor M Lithgow.

425 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Lloyd and A Govier have a standing personal interest declaration relating to MTMIT, the Council's IT consultant, being a former customer of the company.

Councillor Thorne has a standing personal interest declaration relating to MTMIT, the Council's IT consultant, being a personal friend of the company owner.

Councillor Thorne declared a personal interest in agenda item 5(b) as there was a payment listed to his employer – Tindle Newspapers. He further noted that this should have been raised previously and the committee noted the interest retrospectively.

426 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The three members of the public present were representatives of the groups making grant applications and would answer questions if required at the appropriate agenda item.

427 MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2023.

428 ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

a. TO NOTE AND APPROVE THE BANK RECONCILIATION AS AT 10 JANUARY 2024

RESOLVED to note and approve the bank reconciliation as presented.

b. TO NOTE AND APPROVE EXPENDITURE FOR 6 DECEMBER 2023 - 10 JANUARY 2024

RESOLVED to note and approve the expenditure as presented.

c. TO NOTE AND APPROVE INCOME RECEIVED FOR 6 DECEMBER 2023 - 10 JANUARY 2024

RESOLVED to note and approve the income as presented.

d. TO NOTE AND APPROVE THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AGAINST THE BUDGET AT 5 DECEMBER 2023

Councillor McGuffie expressed concern that some lines remain unspent as we near the end of the financial year but wasn't sure how to raise this. He gave Community Safety as an example. The Deputy Clerk advised that this report is presented to the Finance Committee each month so that such matters can be raised. Regarding the example given, she explained that the Council has some lines that are used as contingency budgets for any ad hoc expenditure as required (see also Emergency Planning, for example). The Community Safety line is proposed to be used to move the defibrillator from Longforth Road Toilets. The matter of which was due to be considered at the following meeting (Town Centre Committee). Councillors agreed that the removal of such lines would not be appropriate.

Lastly, it was reported that budget setting meeting would be held on 31st January where the figures for 24-25 will be reviewed completely. The Deputy Clerk reminded the meeting that if any Councillor had any queries about budget lines or under/overspends they can e-mail her directly and she will reply as quickly as possible.

RESOLVED to note and approve the budget report as presented.

429 GRANTS

a. Applications

- i. **Wellington Tennis Club** – The club submitted an application for £1,120 towards junior match play sessions. The application and supporting documents were circulated to Councillors by e-mail.

After some discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders to allow the applicant to answer questions.

RESOLVED to reinstate Standing Orders

It was proposed that half of the amount be awarded. There was no seconder.

RESOLVED to award a grant of £1,120.

- ii. **St Margaret's Hospice** – The organisation applied for a £1,500 contribution to one of their Community Nurse Specialists. The application and supporting documents were circulated to Councillors by e-mail.

After some discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders to allow the applicant to answer questions.

RESOLVED to reinstate Standing Orders

RESOLVED to award a grant of £1,500. Councillors asked the representative to pass on their thanks to the organisation for the important work they do.

- iii. **Wellington Cricket Club** – the club applied for £720 for their annual indoor training sessions. The application and supporting documents were circulated to Councillors by e-mail.

RESOLVED to award a grant of £720.

b. Summary

The Summary of grants paid in the current financial year was noted.

430 REVIEW OF ASSET REGISTER

RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council that the updated Asset Register be accepted following the addition of the life ring installed at the Basins.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.02pm

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