

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE,
15th December 22 Held at Uppingham Town Hall, commencing at 6.30pm**

FGP099/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Present: Sam Findlay (chair), David Ainslie, Lindsay Cooper, Christine Edwards, Mark Shaw, Daniel Clayton

Town Clerk Sharon Coe and Cynthia Ondeng Admin Assistant were also in attendance.
1 member of the public.

Apologies: Liz Clarke.

FGP100/22 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS AND APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

None

FGP101/22 AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK

No request was made.

**FGP102/22 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE ON
28th September 2022**

Proposed Cllr Findlay, Seconded Cllr Edwards– **Resolved unanimously.**

**FGP103/22 TO REVIEW THE LATEST INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FIGURES AND ASSOCIATED BUDGETARY
CONSIDERATIONS TO DATE.**

Cllr Findlay gave an overview of the documents that had been circulated. The October figures had been presented at full council and the November figures had been given to the Chair and Vice Chair ahead of the meeting. The income was going well, Town Hall lettings were good and Market Stall rents were received promptly. A point to note was the Town Hall maintenance code had increased due to the cleaning being paid to a contractor rather than UTC staff as had been previously. A concern was raised as we had received no property rent on the inherited Bloors land, as negotiations were still taking place. We were broadly on target and may be able to add to the reserves depending on the remaining months figures.

**FGP104/22 TO CONSIDER A BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2023-2024 BEFORE MAKING A RECOMMENDATION
TO FULL COUNCIL.**

The proposed budget was considered by both account code and line by line detail, clarification being given where needed. We needed to have prudent figures and set a legally balanced budget. There were four options: to generate more income/ cut some expenditure / increase the precept, or the fourth option a mixture of the above. UTC will look to maximise interest which may involve moving accounts around for the best deals. It was suggested that we could set a target and aspiration for the Bloors land rental income of £3,000 as we do still have to maintain this land which does add a maintenance cost to the Council. A discussion was held regarding all historic charging and a proposal was made to effect this when the new council is in place to facilitate the precept setting in 2023-2024.

Proposed Cllr Ainslie. Seconded Cllr Shaw. Resolved unanimously

Some of the main points discussed included: -

The subsidy for the maintenance of the toilets (this was confirmed by the Clerk for the future years.)

Energy costs were examined and due to increasing lettings the usage was increasing.

Election charges will be requested from RCC.

Allotments and the marketplace costs were examined.

Public lighting costs had gone up from £5K to over £9k in the coming year.

Space was needed in the Cemetery and a budget should be allocated to a possible plinth in the Leicester Road Cemetery.

Extra monies would be needed for the referendum booklet and the actual referendum vote.

The resolution to Council will be for an increase in the precept and budget of 4.3%

Proposed Cllr Findlay, seconded by Cllr Ainslie. **Resolved unanimously**

FG105/22 TO AGREE THE TRANSFER OF MONIES FROM BANK/BUILDING SOCIETIES ACCOUNTS HELD BY UPPINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL.

Resolution: To sanction the transfer of monies by the Clerk between the accounts where appropriate to the business needs, this action would need the appropriate signatories on each account to enact. This also fulfils a point on last year's audit report.

Proposed Cllr Findlay, seconded Cllr Casewell. **Resolved unanimously.**

FG106/22 TO CONSIDER THE UPDATED POSITION ON THE BOWLS CLUB FROM THE CLERK.

The Clerk updated the committee on the work that she had been asked to complete in a previous meeting regarding the above. She had taken advice from LRALC and in turn they had asked for technical legal advice. The Clerk read the detailed answer that she had received. This would now be an agenda item at the next full Council for detailed consideration and debate before any further decisions are made. Proposed by Cllr Ainslie, Seconded Cllr Edwards. **Resolved unanimously.**

FG107/22 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATED POSITION ON THE CHANGED AUTHORITY ON THE LLOYDS BANK ACCOUNT AS SUGGESTED BY THE INTERNAL AUDITOR.

Cllrs Findlay and Ainslie had completed the instructions for a dual authority permission on the Lloyds Bank account to ensure a more robust financial payment system. They were going through a tortuous process with the Bank, to comply with rules, set by Lloyds.

Meeting closed at 7.40 with the kind permission of Cllr Rees who had agreed that this meeting should conclude its business prior to the start of the following Amenities Committee.

Signed Chairman of F & G P

Dated.....

Dated