

# Whitchurch Town Council

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## FINANCE COMMITTEE

### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD BY ZOOM ON THURSDAY 11<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2021 COMMENCING AT 7pm

**Present:** Cllrs: A. Chesters, B. Duffy, J. Sinnott, S. Hamlyn and R Shepherd.

The Chair advised that the meeting was being recorded and asked for confirmation if anyone else was recording. It was confirmed that no one was recording.

#### **In Attendance:**

Zoë Dean – Acting Town Clerk  
Harry Wright – Whitchurch Herald  
1 x member of the public

#### **120. Apologies**

Cllr J. Martin – Prior commitment

#### **121. Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were received.

#### **122. Minutes**

Following a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr Sinnott, It was **FIN/105/2021 RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021 were an accurate record of that meeting. The Chair to sign the minutes for return to the Council offices.

#### **123. Public Participation**

Following a proposal from Cllr Chesters, seconded by Cllr Sinnott, It was **FIN/106/2021 RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders for the purpose of Public Participation.

Cllr A. Hall asked about the possibility of using a recovery agency for the larger bad debts. Cllr A. Hall stated that the Civic Centre required a business plan before continuing with the Bar Lounge renovation project.

After a proposal from Cllr Chesters, seconded by Cllr Hamlyn, It was **FIN/107/2021 RESOLVED** to reinstate Standing Orders.

Cllr L. Broders joined the meeting at 19:07.

#### **124. Accounts Month 11**

The Chairman noted that the Town Council would have a surplus at the end of the year of £100,000, plus the £50,000 set aside for the Civic Centre development. Cllr Sinnott asked for clarification on the paperwork for the Heritage Centre transfer, Cllr Duffy noted that the Whitchurch Town Council still maintains the building. Cllr Chesters stated that this would be looked into.

Following a proposal from Cllr Chesters, seconded by Cllr Duffy, It was **FIN/108/2021 RESOLVED** to accept and sign the Month 11 Accounts, as presented. Chairman to sign the accounts and return to the office.

**125. Monthly Purchase Ledger, BACS and Cheque Payments**

Following a proposal by Cllr Sinnott seconded by Cllr Duffy,  
It was **FIN/109/2021 RESOLVED** to accept and sign the Purchase Ledger, BACS and cheque payments for Month 11, as presented.

**126. Petty Cash**

After a proposal from Cllr Sinnott, seconded by Cllr Hamlyn.  
It was **FIN/110/2021 RESOLVED** to accept and sign the Petty Cash record.

**127. Council Credit Card**

The Chairman noted that credit card membership renewal was ongoing.  
Following a proposal by Cllr Chesters, seconded by Cllr Hamlyn,  
It was **FIN/111/2021 RESOLVED** to accept and sign the credit card payments record, as presented.

**128. Councillor Internal Audit Review**

Following a proposal from Cllr Chesters, seconded by Cllr Duffy,  
It was **FIN/112/2021 RESOLVED** to accept the Councillor internal audit review from April – December 2020.

**129. Bad Debts**

Committee debated the outstanding long terms debts at length, noting the lack of contract with Shropshire Council. The Chairman noted that the service had been used so an agreement was in place, as previous payments had been received.  
Following a proposal from Cllr Chesters, seconded by Cllr Shepherd,  
It was **FIN/113/2021 RESOLVED** to progress this debt further, with a stronger focus by writing to the leader of Shropshire Council and obtaining free legal advice.

**130. Water Plus Update**

The committee asked why Water Plus were being utilised rather than Severn Trent. The committee also enquired whether Council is liable for back payments on a newly discovered meter?  
After a proposal from Cllr Chesters, seconded by Cllr Sinnott,  
It was **FIN/114/2021 RESOLVED** to check the current contract at the next meeting with a view to change supplier.

**131. PG Skips**

The committee agreed that the rates per kilo of waste were good and the company was cheap.

**132. Good Energy Income**

Following a proposal from Cllr Chesters, seconded by Cllr Hamlyn,  
It was **FIN/115/2021 RESOLVED** that Cllr Hamlyn is to check why the meter readings are not being sent automatically every half hour.

**133. Solar Grant Income**

Following a proposal from Cllr Chesters, seconded by Cllr Hamlyn,  
It was **FIN/116/2021 RESOLVED** to accept the solar grant information, noting that money is available for appropriate grants.

**134. Recommendation from the Cultural & Civic Centre Committee**

The Acting Town Clerk informed committee that a request for an additional £10,000 had been received from the Cultural & Civic Centre Committee for the Bar Lounge Renovation Project. This request could be viewed as investment for the Town Council to further improve facilities and make the space more saleable.

The committee debated this item at length. It was that the building was not yet owned by the Town Council.

Following a proposal from Cllr Hamlyn, seconded by Cllr Duffy,  
It was **FIN/117/2021 RECOMMENDED** to allocate an additional £10,000 to the Bar Lounge Project.  
A voted was taken, For: 4. Against: 2.

The recommendation was carried and would be sent to Full Council for final approval.

**135. Confidential Business**

There was none.

**The meeting closed at 19:55.**

Signed .....

Date .....