NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 15TH JULY 2021 VIA ZOOM

Members Present	:	Cllr G Emmett Cllr M McNamee (Vice Chair) Cllr Mrs J Thomas (arrived 17.15) Cllr Mrs C Fox Cllr S Naylor Cllr Mrs K Cernik
Also Present	:	Chris Shaw – Town Clerk Liza Clansey – Assistant Town Clerk

FIN 21/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE OR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Cllr T Melville. Cllr L Siddall was not present.

FIN 21/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr G Emmett and Cllr M McNamee wished to declare an interest in any matters relating to Freshwater View and Cllr S Naylor and Cllr Mrs K Cernik declared an interest in matters relating to CW&C.

FIN 21/20 SIGNING OF THE MINUTES

Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on Thursday 24th of June 2021 were approved.

Propose by Cllr Ms C Fox and seconded by Cllr G Emmett, all approved.

FIN 21/21 DETAILED INCOME & EXPENDITURE BY BUDGET

TC & AC answered various members' questions relating to budget headings.

The total figures were approved.

Proposed by Cllr G Emmett and seconded by Cllr Miss C Fox, all approved.

FIN 21/22 BACS DUE FOR PAYMENT

TC and ATC answered various members' questions relating to Bacs payments.

The figure of £73,837.05 was approved.

Proposed by Cllr Mrs K Cernik and seconded by Cllr G Emmett, all approved.

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Date	**Cllr T Melville** **Chair**

FIN 21/23 **BANK PAYMENTS TO BE CHECK BY FINANCE**

Members approved evidence for payments from May 2021 payments.

Cheshire Farm £160.27 & D & R Fabrications £672.00

Proposed by Cllr G Emmett and seconded by Cllr Miss C Fox, all agreed.

Cllr Mrs K Cernik picked the payments from June 2021 to be brought to finance next month to check.

Cheshire Business Supplies 90.00 & Gibsons Garden Machinery £334.47

FIN 21/24 **BRITISH GAS ELECTRIC FOR OFFICES, CHAPEL, OUTSIDE & GARAGES**

Further to last month's Finance meeting when FO reported to members there was a dispute with the British Gas electric bill and direct debit payments.

British Gas informed us the high charges were due to high running costs.

ATC & FO looked back over the last 15 months invoices and could see the months that were higher than others which related to work being carried out in the chapels and work men using the heating and the chapels being used as office space during Covid. The electric heaters are very expensive to run and the chapels were used over the winter months.

Normally British Gas would automatically increase the direct debit to account for the excess amount of electric used but had not done this until now.

The balance for this account runs between £1,000 and £2000 but British Gas have allowed this to get up to £5393.23.

FO has been trying to resolve why the total has become so high for the last three months, but it has taken until now to get an answer from British Gas.

The bills and meter readings are being monitored and the monthly direct debit will remain at £1699.00 for the coming months to reduce this balance.

Members asked we look at ways to reduce the high running costs but as AC and TC explained, until a refurbishment is carried out on the slate roof (which needs replacing), all the heat is lost as there is no roof insolation, when the roof is replaced in the future years the heating will be re-assessed.

FO will keep members up to date over the next few months of the balance on this account.

FIN 21/25 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Date of the next meeting Thursday 19th August 2021 5.00pm

There being no further business the Vice Chairman declared the meeting closed at 5.24pm

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Date	**Cllr T Melville** **Chair**