

**MINUTES of a MEETING
of the
FINANCE AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
held in the
Council Chamber, Buckley
on
Tuesday 25th September 2018**

PRESENT

Councillor J F Thornton – in the Chair

Cllr V E Blondek	Cllr J S Jones	Cllr C M Preece
Cllr C A Ellis	Cllr W A Lewis	Cllr P G Shone
Cllr D Ellis	Cllr S Peers	Cllr M P Teire
Cllr I D Howes	Cllr I Peters	Cllr A G Williams
Cllr E J Hutchinson	Cllr N Phillips	Cllr A Woolley
Cllr H D Hutchinson		

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr M B Wright – Town Clerk & Financial Officer
Mrs L George – Personal Assistant
Mrs T J Reece – Personal Assistant

17243- APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence and reasons were received and approved from Councillors R B Jones (holiday), M J Peers (holiday) and E L Preece (work commitments).

17244- DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Four Declarations of Interest were made in relation to Agenda item 10 – The Old Buckley Baths Community Hall Limited, by Councillors C A Ellis, D Ellis, E J Hutchinson and H D Hutchinson. It was –

Resolved – that the Declarations of Interest were noted.

17245- MINUTES

Resolved - that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance and Economic Development Committee held on 24th July 2018, as now submitted, be signed by the Committee Chair.

17246- ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Resolved - (i) that the accounts numbered 11449-11489 (inclusive as detailed in the Schedule of Accounts Number 491 dated 25th September 2018 [a copy of which had

been distributed to all Members] and amounting in total to the sum of £45,143.53) be approved for payment and the Town Clerk be authorised to make the necessary arrangements to ensure that the payments were properly actioned through the Council's Bank Current Account in accordance with the Council's Internal Financial Controls.

(ii) that the expenditure be authorised in accordance with powers contained within the relevant local government acts and as identified and described within Appendix 1 of the NALC advice 'Governance and Accountability in Local Councils in England and Wales, a Practitioners' Guide' as revised and amended.

17247- BANK RECONCILIATION

The Committee received the monthly Bank Reconciliations as at 31st July 2018 and 31st August 2018. It was –

Resolved – that the Bank Reconciliations as at 31st July 2018 and 31st August 2018 be received, noted and approved.

17248- LOCAL COUNCILS IN WALES ANNUAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2018

The Committee was advised that it was normal at this meeting for the Members to receive, note and approve the receipt of the completed Local Councils in Wales Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2018. The Clerk, however, reported that the Annual Return had not yet been returned by BDO LLP. The Clerk had raised the matter with BDO LLP and was advised that the completed Annual Returns for Wales Town/Community Councils had not yet been forwarded to the relevant Town/Community Councils. BDO LLP would therefore be issuing a notice of publication that indicated that the accounts were as yet unaudited. The Clerk reminded the Committee that the Annual Return and Final Accounts Documentation had been forwarded to BDO LLP on 8th June 2018 and that any queries raised by BDO LLP had been concluded by 2nd August 2018. It was –

Resolved – that the Clerk's report be received, noted and approved.

17249- ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2018/19 – 2019/20

The Committee received and considered a report from the Clerk, which advised that the sum of £100,650.00 from the matured Fixed Term High Interest Deposit Account with Lloyds Bank had been reinvested into a further High Interest Deposit Account for a 12 month period ending on 27th June 2019. The interest received would be 1% as compared to 0.65% in the previous year. As a result of the transfer the Annual Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2018/19 – 2019/20 had been revised. The revised document was enclosed with the Agenda. It was –

Resolved – that the Clerk's actions be approved in the matter and that Members be advised to replace the current Addendum item 2 in their Standing Orders with the Revised Addendum item 2.

17250- CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The Committee was advised that the contract for the erection, dismantling and maintaining of the Christmas Lights for 2018 was put out to tender. The closing date for the receipt of tenders was Friday 3rd August 2018. Four companies had been invited to tender, three of which did so. The tenders were opened by the Chair and Vice Chair of this Committee on 8th August 2018 and the successful tenderer was Dave Watkins Electrical Contractor. The Committee was advised that meetings would be held with the successful tenderer in due course to ensure that everything ran as smoothly as possible on the due date. It was –

Resolved – that the Committee acknowledged and approved the actions taken in appointing the contractor for the 2018 Christmas Lights.

17251- CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

The Committee was advised that upon inspecting the column lights in readiness for the 2018 Christmas Lights erection, a number were found to be defective as well as some of the town centre lights. In order to ensure a continued illumination programme, the Approved Budget for 2018/19 may have had to be increased by approximately 10%. The Clerk advised the Committee that the majority of the increase could be accommodated through viring money out of the Town Centre Promotion Budget into the Christmas Lights Budget. It was –

Resolved – that the Clerk's report be received, noted and the required virement, should it be necessary, be approved.

17252- THE OLD BUCKLEY BATHS COMMUNITY HALL LIMITED

The Committee received a report from the Clerk, which advised that at the end of the 2017/18 Financial Year the Council held a Specific Reserve to support The Old Buckley Baths Community Hall Limited. The balance of reserve at the above year end was £35,345.00. The Clerk also reminded Members that in 2016 £10,000.00 had been awarded from the original Specific Reserve to support the Company's endeavours to obtain Charitable Status. The Clerk further advised the Committee that following a recent meeting with the Director of the Company, a request had been made for a further £10,000.00 from the Specific Reserve to enable the building to be insured and for the Company to show £5,000.00 in its Bank Account to enable the Charitable Status application to proceed. The previous £10,000.00 had been almost entirely used up in insuring the building. It was –

Resolved – that the request from The Old Buckley Baths Community Hall Limited for financial assistance of £10,000.00 for insuring its building and showing a suitable Bank balance be approved.

17253- PHOTOCOPIER RENTAL CONTRACT

The Clerk advised the Committee that the Council's main photocopier was on a five year rental which was due to expire. The Clerk had entered into a new contract for a new

machine with its current supplier. The new contract would save the Council approximately £750.00 per annum. It was -

Resolved – that the Clerk’s report be received, noted and the actions of the Clerk in the matter be endorsed and approved.

17254- CAR PARKING CHARGES – BUCKLEY

The Clerk provided an update on the continuing discussions and meetings with Flintshire County Council with regard to the above matter. The Clerk reported that at a meeting with Flintshire County Council it had been agreed that the revised report and appendices provided to Flintshire County Council from this Town Council would be taken to Flintshire County Council’s Cabinet for consideration. Flintshire County Council’s Chief Executive had indicated he would try and get the report and its appendices to Flintshire County Council’s October Cabinet meeting. The Committee was advised that previously the decision not to take this Council’s request to pay for free parking to Flintshire County Council’s Cabinet had been made at an Informal Cabinet meeting.

During the ensuing debate the Clerk advised the Committee that it was not in danger of breaching Standing Order 15(a) in that a resolution was not likely to be made which altered previous resolutions, as the Clerk was in fact informing the Committee of actions taken in relation to an ongoing matter. It was therefore, on the Clerk’s advice –

Resolved – that the information provided be received and noted. The Clerk to report further when more information was available.

CHAIR