

Kidderminster Town Council
MINUTES of the Finance & Overview Committee meeting held on
Wednesday 27 April 2022 at 6:00pm in the
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Kidderminster

Present: Councillors D. Ross (Chairman), D. Chambers, K. Gale, D. Hine and F. Oborski MBE

F.184 Apologies

There were none, all member of the Committee being present.

F.185 Minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2021

RESOLVED: - that the minutes of the meetings held on 17 November 2021 be agreed as a correct record.

F.186 Declarations of Interests by Members

Councillors Ross and Hopkins each declared non-pecuniary interests in Agenda Item 6, the grant application from the Museum of Carpet on the grounds that they were trustees of the Museum Trust.

F.187 Public participation

None.

F.188 Finance

Councillors considered the following matters related to the Council's finances:

- The schedule of accounts paid between 16 March and 31 March (including some earlier dates) totalling expenditure of £146,187.28 was received and agreed;
- A schedule of answers to finance questions raised previously was considered and the answers received;
- Members received the first draft of the year end figures for the financial year ending 31 March 2022 showing draft expenditure against budget. Councillors noted that this was an early draft and that a number of year end accounting transactions had yet to take place and that these might substantially alter the figures. Income and expenditure relating to the Town Hall bar was a matter of some concern to Councillors and questions were raised about staff costs and whether a stocktake of the bar had been undertaken at the end of the financial year. It was further noted that anticipated levelling up funding (LUF) had not yet been received and that the Town Hall Transformation Project showed a significant overspend that had not been offset by grant income (it was anticipated that a debtor would be raised for the LUF due and that this would improve the position in the final year end figures). Other minor points of detail were discussed.

F.189 Grant Funding

Councillors considered the following grant applications and decided upon them as indicated:

Museum of Carpet - £6,000 was applied for as a contribution to the costs of the summer temporary exhibition to celebrate the museum's 10th birthday.

RESOLVED: to make a grant of £3,000 to the Museum of Carpet

- F.190** **Kidderminster Choral Society** - £4,000 was applied for as a contribution to the costs of a Platinum Jubilee concert to be held in June.
RESOLVED: to make a grant of £2,000 to the Choral Society.
- F.191** **To further consider the Financing of the Town Hall Project**
This item was deferred.
- F.192** **Exclusion of the Press and Public**
RESOLVED: - that, under Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972 and in accordance with Standing Order 3(b), the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the disclosure of categories 1, 2 and 3 of “exempt information” as defined in the appendix to the standing orders.
- F.193** **Consideration of Quote re Members’ IT**
Councillors considered a quote to provide gov.uk emails for all councillors and to subscribe to Microsoft Office 365.
RESOLVED: - that, in principle the proposal should be pursued that those costs should be kept to a minimum with Councillors encouraged to use Town Council iPads where already issued or their own devices. The office to contact all councillors to establish their preferences.

The meeting ended at 7.07pm

Chairman

Date