

CITY OF DURHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council Finance Committee held on Thursday 11th June 2020 at 14:00 via Zoom.

Present: Councillors A Doig (Chair), J Ashby, V Ashfield, R Ormerod & E Scott

Also present: Parish Clerk A Shanley

Cllr A Doig in the Chair

1. WELCOME AND RECEIPT FOR APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr E Ashby

2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

Cllr A Doig declared an interest in the grant applications for the Lowes Barne Community Project, Shakespeare Hall, Alington House and St. Margaret's Centre.

Cllr J Ashby declared an interest in the grant application for St. Nicholas Community Forum.

Cllr V Ashfield declared an interest in the grant applications for St. Nicholas Community Forum and the Woodman Inn project.

Cllr R Ormerod declared an interest in the grant application for Alington House.

Cllr E Scott declared an interest in the grant application for the Lowes Barne Community Project.

Councillors did not vote on the respective applications for which they had declared an interest.

3. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 7TH JANUARY 2020.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7th January 2020 were unanimously **agreed** as a true and accurate record of proceedings and the Chair signed the Minutes.

4. TO RECEIVE ANY PUBLIC PARTICIPATION COMMENTS ON THE FOLLOWING AGENDA ITEMS

None received.

5. GRANT FUNDING AWARDS 2020/21

Members considered each application and the following was **agreed** as a recommendation to go forward to Full Council for approval:

Organisation	Amount requested (£)	Amount agreed (£)
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The Woodman Community Project	5000	0. The Committee agreed that the group should re-apply next year, at which point the future of the Woodman Inn may be clearer
Sanctuary 21	1300	1300
St Cuthberts Hospice	1750	1750
St Nicholas Community Forum	150	150
Harbour	1500	1500

Durham Hospital Radio	2000	2000
Blind Life in Durham	783	783
Alington House	785	785
St. Margaret's Centre	1000	1000
Samaritans	2500	2500

Lowes Barne Community Project	4980	4980
Merryoaks WI	300	300
Durham Markets Community Interest Company	900	900

St Oswalds Institute	3700	3700
Durham Community Association (Shakespeare Hall)	376.5	376.5
Durham City Woodcraft Folk	500	500
Friends of Wharton Park	250	250

It was noted that the allocation agreed equated to £22,774.50. Members **agreed** to recommend that the total fund for grants be increased to accommodate this for this year only in view of the added pressure on local voluntary and community groups as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

6. INTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019/20

Members considered the internal audit report for 2019/20. The Clerk advised that the recommendation from the auditor that Councillors initial the invoices agreed had already been introduced.

Cllr E Scott advised that the positive feedback from the audit was due to the attention to detail and hard work of the Clerk and the Committee thanked the Clerk for his work on this.

Cllr R Ormerod also advised that the audit was testament to the good work of the Council as a whole and the governance structures the Council had introduced.

The Clerk also reported that the auditor had recommended that the Parish Council transfer some of its funds into a separate bank account with a separate bank for further protection. The Committee **agreed** that the Clerk should investigate opening a new account and transfer £60,000 (reserves and contingencies) into this account.

7. FINANCIAL POSITION AT THE END OF 2019/20 FINANCIAL YEAR

The Committee noted that the Parish Council was carrying over £129,720 from the financial year 2019/20. The Clerk provided a report which highlighted the underspend from the previous financial year.

Cllr E Scott proposed that, in view of the Parish Council's substantial funds and the immediate concern for and threat to local businesses, the Committee considers the establishment of an emergency Covid-19 Business Resilience Grant Fund of £30,000 to support local businesses in the parish through Covid-19.

The Committee agreed that this proposal should be put to Full Council and the Clerk should draft a report including an application form and a set of criteria for this fund.

8. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The Chair advised that the date of the next meeting would be communicated in the due course.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked Members for their attendance and closed the meeting.

Signed,



Chair of the City of Durham Parish Council Finance Committee