



MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE OF KETTERING TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOLLER CHURCH ROOMS, KETTERING AT 7PM ON 1<sup>st</sup> MAY 2024

Councillors Present: Cllr Mark Rowley (chair)  
Cllrs Lloyd Bunday, Carolyn Carter, Maggie Don, Scott Edwards, and Emily Fedorowycz

Officers present:- Martin Hammond, Town Clerk

No members of the public/press attended.

Item Number	Description
<b>FC23/070</b>	<b>Apologies for absence</b>  Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Robin Carter
<b>FC23/071</b>	<b>Declarations of interest</b>  Cllr Don declared a non pecuniary interest in item FC23/076 because of her association with both Kettering Homestart and Accommodation Concern
<b>FC23/072</b>	<b>Minutes</b>  The minutes of the meeting held on 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2024 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the chair
<b>FC23/073</b>	<b>Public Session</b>  None
<b>FC23/074</b>	<b>Financial Year End – budget monitoring and invoices</b>  A report was presented which set out the Council's financial position as at year end, for the 23/24 year, subject to internal and external audits being completed.  The Council ended the year with £261,460 in its bank accounts and £31,862 unspent within its general account. Some of that underspend had been anticipated and had been built into the 2024/5 budget estimates.

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	<p>The report detailed income and expenditure during the year, VAT recovered, and movements in reserves. Year end adjustments had been completed and there was just over £100 in outstanding debts to collect from two market traders, although one of those had been outstanding for some months.</p> <p>The report also detailed the making of a grant to Shopmobility, under authority granted by Council at its March meeting, to keep it going until NNC issued a new agreement for this service to a new provider; the grant was for a month until 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024.</p> <p>Finally, it was reported that the Council's printer had stopped working properly and authority was sought to acquire a new one, within a budget of £500, including installation and set up.</p> <p>Members considered how to allocate the unspent monies and</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) To note the financial year end position</li><li>b) Endorse a grant of £1100 to Kettering Shopmobility to cover the period April 8<sup>th</sup>- May 7<sup>th</sup> 2024 and that the funding for this be drawn from the underspending in 2023/4</li><li>c) That the remainder of the underspend be allocated as follows:-<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Novated to the 24/5 financial year to meet the costs of civic regalia not billed in 23/24 £1800</li><li>- Required in the year to meet general budget requirements in 2024/5 £11,550</li><li>- Contribution to general reserves £10,000</li><li>- Contribution to election reserves £ 7,412</li></ul></li><li>d) The clerk be authorised to acquire a new printer, within a £500 envelope.</li></ul>
<b>FC23/075</b>	<p><b>Allotment Investment Priorities 24-25</b></p> <p>A report was submitted which summarised the conclusions of the Allotments Working Group, which had met with the two allotments associations earlier in the year to discuss works which were needed to the Council's allotments.</p> <p>The meeting had agreed that the following two items were the priority for this year and quotes had been obtained in respect of both of them.</p>

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	<p><b>RESOLVED</b> that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) The quote by Independent Tree and Fencing in the sum of £5506 be approved for fencing replacement at Northfield Avenue</li><li>b) The quote by Fernwood Arboriculture in the sum of £2400 plus VAT for brook clearance at South End Allotments be approved</li><li>c) The minutes of the Allotment Working Group on 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024 be noted</li></ul>
<p><b>FC23/076</b></p>	<p><b>Grants to named voluntary sector organisations</b></p> <p>A report was submitted reporting on the dialogue that had taken place with the three organisations identified at the last meeting as potentially benefiting from a recurring annual grant to support their core costs. The three organisations had all indicated how they would use the grant monies and how the grants would be monitored throughout the period.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that an annual grant be offered to the following organisations for a three year period starting 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 to support their core costs:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Kettering Foodbank £ 2000</li><li>- Accommodation Concern £1500</li><li>- Kettering Homestart £1500</li></ul>
<p><b>FC23/077</b></p>	<p><b>Mayoral Activity</b></p> <p>A report of the Mayors' activity and events in the past two months was submitted and noted. A total of £3500 had been raised directly during the year for Mayoral charities, and had inspired others to make direct donations to both charities as well.</p> <p>A mayoral cadet had been nominated by the Air Cadets for the 2024/5 Mayoral year. The new pendant for the Mayor's chains of office had been made and was due to be supplied the next day.</p> <p>A verbal report on the "Trash Dash" and the Summer Saturday event was provided; it was agreed that future Trash Dashes might usefully be co-ordinated with Barton and Burton loiter picking activities.</p>

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<b>FC23/078</b>	<b>Climate Change</b>  A verbal report was made on activities being funded by the Council from its biodiversity budget. Seed exchanges run by Kettering Eco Group and Groundwork Trust in March and May respectively, had been funded by the Council, at a total cost of £179 and a further seed exchange to be run by the Kettering Allotment Association was planned for September.  The idea of blister pack recycling facilities had been raised with Boots in Kettering but no reply had been received, so it was agreed to approach the Eskdail practice and pharmacy instead.
<b>FC23/079</b>	<b>Monitoring of the Corporate Plan</b>  The priorities set out in the refreshed corporate plan were submitted, with progress reports on each, and these were discussed and noted.  A desire to include a disability race within the half marathon planned for next March was expressed and would be explored.
	Meeting closed at 7.40pm

Signed.....

Date.....