**WIGTON TOWN COUNCIL**

**A MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WAS**

**HELD ON MONDAY 23rd January 2023 AT 6:00PM**

**PRESENT**

Councillors Scott, Jackson, Robbins and Hodson.

Clerk: Emma Ireton

**FIN/39/2022 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES & RECORD REASONS FOR ABSENCE**

Councillors Lynch and Ferriby

**FIN/40/2022 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/DISPENSATIONS**

None

**FIN/41/2022 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

None

**FIN/42/2022 BUDGETS**

Cllr Scott was chairperson of this meeting in place of Cllr Ferriby who was on annual leave.

The meeting was opened by discussing the situation with Waverton and how they had decreased their cemetery precept as Wigton had. It was raised that it did not seem to have been reported that this would happen prior to the decrease, it was only known after the payment had been made.

The committee then discussed the 2023/2024 precept with all councillors agreeing that it should be taken to full council for a vote to raise the cemetery precept from £9000 to £10000. This will be taken to full council for full approval.

EI provided the committee members with a copy of the draft budget and clarified some points that had raised from the previous meeting:

* Salaries

It was confirmed that the estimation was correct and was as accurate as possible and it also included a national and incremental pay rise for every member of staff.

* Hourly rate of external contracts

The recommendation was to increase the hourly rate of external contracts where there was a rolling contract in place to £21 per hour from £17.31 per hour to cover costs.

* Public Toilet Maintenance

It was raised that there were ongoing problems with the public toilets as they have often not been opened/closed or cleaned. It was asked whether a different company could take over the cleaning schedule if not in contract. **ACTION** – Contact Orian to discuss ongoing issues.

* Festivals

It was clarified that the Christmas Lights would be removed from the festivals budget and have its own budget line. This would allow £23000 for the annual festival budget. **ACTION** – Contact Lite who provide the Christmas Lights to ask about amending the 2022/23 invoice due to a number of the lights not working over the Christmas period.

EI asked all members to contact the office if there were any further questions regarding the 2023/2024 budget.

**FIN/43/2022 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting – Monday 27th February 2023 at 6pm.

Meeting Closed at 6:30pm.