

WIGTON TOWN COUNCIL

A MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WAS

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2023 AT 6:00PM

PRESENT

Councillors Scott, Jackson, McCarthy, Hodson and Ferriby

Clerk: Emma Ireton

FIN/08/2023 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES & RECORD REASONS FOR ABSENCE

None

FIN/09/2023 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/DISPENSATIONS

None

FIN/10/2023 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

None

FIN/11/2023 DISCUSS 2024/2025 BUDGET

The committee were provided with a copy of the draft budget for 2024/2025.

The draft precept request was calculated at £400000 which included the WBJC precept request of £17371.

Members reviewed each budget line and discussed options around the larger expenditure items including:

- The requirement to purchase a new or used van essential for the grounds maintenance. The committee agreed it would be the best option to look for a van that is approximately one year old and still has a warranty as this would be cheaper than a new vehicle and would still have less maintenance costs. The budget was amended to £25000 for a vehicle. One recommendation was to purchase the vehicle in this financial year as there will be a carry forward.
- The need to replace the Bowling Club/Park toilets as they are in disrepair. Wigton Town Council own the Bowling Club in the park and are responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the assets. In a meeting with the Bowling Club, who rent the facilities and buildings, it was agreed that the Town Council would take action to repair or replace the toilets. One option was to purchase a ready-made toilet block and place in the car park so it was visible, this comes with issues as services would need to be extended. It was also discussed whether it would be cheaper to repair the current toilet block or place the ready-made toilet block in the existing toilets place. It was agreed that Innovia would need to take part in the discussions as they supply the services. Initially £20000 was earmarked for the toilets but it was decided to temporarily put it on hold until further research had taken place around options before a decision was made. Instead, the committee agreed to look at temporary solutions such as portaloos.
- External contracts were mentioned as some were coming to the end of their contract. The committee were advised that they were being costed with the parks

supervisor and then the committee could look at the costing before making a decision.

The committee went through the rest of the draft budget and received explanations for some items. It was advised that the estimated money in bank as of 31st March 2024 would be £130000 which is approximately 6 months operating costs.

As some changes were made to the budget the committee agreed to meet again on the 27th November to finalise the budget and precept request.

FIN/12/2023 GRANT APPLICATIONS

The committee reviewed two grant applications, both from the Wiza Club.

Application one was for the sum of £1500 and was to contribute towards the club's Christmas meal at the Greenhill Hotel. The application lacked some detail, specifically around how the rest of the funding would be met as the £1500 would not cover the full cost. The amount of £1500 that was requested did not match a specific expenditure item but seemed to be a figure towards the costs. There was also no 2023 bank statement attached so the committee could not see what funds the club currently had. The outcome of the application was to request further information before a decision could be made. The committee **VOTED** to authorise the clerk/RFO to request further information and grant up to £500 for application one. The result of the **VOTE** was **UNANIMOUS**.

Application two was for the sum of £500 and was to contribute towards crockery and baking trays etc for the club. The committee reviewed the application and **VOTED UNANIMOUSLY** to decline the second application due to the lack of detail and no details of other funding. The club will be advised to apply again in February with more detail.

FIN/14/2023 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Next meeting – Monday 27th November 2023

Meeting Closed at 6:55