

HEXHAM TOWN COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE ONLINE MEETING HELD ON 8 DECEMBER 2020

761.	PRESENT: Councillors R Hull, S Ball, T G E Gillanders, T Cessford, T Dodds, J M Graham, C R Homer, J Ord, T Pearson and L Panesh.
762.	No APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received.
763.	MINUTES of the meeting held on 3 November 2020, having been circulated, were AGREED.
764.	<p>MATTERS ARISING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) FESTIVAL OF FLAME (minute 751c refers). It was noted that the Festival of Flame will still be held, probably when the Abbey re-opens, and AGREED that the previously agreed funding will be given on confirmation of the date(s).b) LEAF BLOWER (minute 759 refers). It was NOTED this had been considered by the Planning & Infrastructure Committee and that second-hand options were being researched.c) MEMBER/OFFICERS RELATIONS PROTOCOL (minute 755 and action log refers). It was noted that this is on the December Full Council agenda.d) FINANCIAL RISK ASSESSMENT (minute 756 and action log refers). It was noted that this is on the December Full Council agenda.e) FUNDING (minute and confidential note 758 and action log refers). It was noted that the agreed payments had all been made.f) PLANNING ADVICE (minute/confidential note 758 and action log refers). It was noted that this is pending.
765.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Councillor Homer declared a non-pecuniary interest in one of the organisations regarding funding.
766.	FINANCIAL REPORT: The bank statement and account reconciliation together with the 2020/21 budget report to 30 November 2020 were received and accepted. Copies are attached to the minutes. Additional possible spending this financial year was also considered as noted in confidential note 766.
767.	HSBC: Continued banking with the HSBC was considered. It was noted that the Northumberland Community Bank was not an option because of imposed financial limits. It was AGREED that the Council will continue to bank with the HSBC but monitor the bank's sustainability issues.
768.	EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC: It was resolved and AGREED in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, namely consideration of the budget for 2021/22 and funding requests, it is advisable

	in the public interest that the public and press be temporarily excluded from the meeting and they were requested to withdraw.
769.	COUNCIL BUDGET 2021/22: A draft budget was considered and it was AGREED the budget and the required precept as detailed in the agenda be recommended to the Council.
770.	FUNDING APPLICATIONS: These were considered and AGREED as noted in confidential note 770.
771.	NEXT MEETING: It was AGREED that the next Committee meeting will be held online at 6.30pm on Tuesday 19 January 2021.

Action Log

Research costs etc (confidential note 766)	Admin Officer
Refer seating to the Community Engagement Committee (confidential note 766)	Clerk
Refer the skatepark to the Community Engagement Committee (confidential note 766)	Clerk
Refer the proposed 2021/22 budget to Full Council (minute 769)	Clerk
Arrange payment of the agreed funding applications and prepare a press release on Covid-19 funding (minute 770)	Clerk
Re-contact NCC for advice (minute 758)	Clerk

Chairman