

**Tiverton Town Council**

Town Hall, St Andrew Street, Tiverton, Devon EX16 6PG

Town Clerk: J.F. Vanderwolfe FILCM Chartered MCIPD

Email:townclerk@tivertontowncouncil.gov.uk

Phone: 01884 25344

Draft until approved

Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall on Monday 14th November, commencing at 6.15pm

Present: Cllrs, N Davey (Chairman), S Griggs, C Harrower, B Holdman, D Knowles, T Lindus and J Rendle, S Bush, W Burke.

In Attendance: Town Clerk (Mr J Vanderwolfe), Linzi Hubbard (Admin)

226	Apologies Apologies had been received from Cllrs I Hill, C Daw, and A Perris.
227	Declarations of Interest Personal declarations from Cllrs Knowles, Griggs, Rendle (Grand Western Canal Committee members) Personal declarations, Cllr Knowles, Rendle, Lindus, Burke (Twinning)
228	Items to be Taken in Part B The Town Clerk had not recommended that any items on the agenda this evening be taken in Part B, therefore the whole meeting would be open to the public and the press
229	Minutes The minutes of the meeting held on the 24 th October 2022 were adopted as a true record.
230	Matters arising from the Minutes that are not an agenda item Cllr Davey confirmed that the £100,000 was being invested with the CCLA public sector.
231	Democratic Period No members of public in attendance.
232	Litter and Dog Bins Town Clerk explained that the town council are receiving complaints on a weekly basis from members of the public. Town Clerk presented the report to Cllrs (circulated prior to the meeting) regarding litter bin provision. Town Council get requests for new dog/litter bins via Mid Devon District Council, members of public are directed to Town/Parish Councils for any new bin requests. Town Council currently take the request and forward to Street Scene to conduct a survey if there is not another bin within a 0.5 mile radius, if there is, a survey will not be carried out. Mid Devon District Council (MDDC) then respond back to us with the findings of their survey, the town council are then given the option by MDDC to have a new bin installed, but the cost would then have to be met by the town council. Town Clerk feels that clarity is needed on this issue in the town councils' approach, as much time is spent by

the administration team dealing with litter/dog bin related complaints and requests. The other issue is that many of the requests come from new estates where roads are not yet adopted. In this case MDDC will not consider bins here. Town Clerk feels that new developers, or perhaps section 106 money could be used to fund new bins here. The Members then discussed this issue. It was felt by all members that a letter should be written to MDDC, advising them that Tiverton Town Council should not be responsible for the provision of new bins, this should be a District function. Within the letter it should also be requested that information on MDDC's website should be altered and reference to contacting town/parish councils for new bins should be removed to avoid confusion for the public and who to contact around this issue. The Town Clerk and Administration team will forward a letter to go to MDDC.

Financial Reports

- a) The balance sheet of 24th October 2022 was adopted.
- b) The income and expenditure report for October was examined and agreed.
- c) Payments made in October 2022 were reviewed. Cllr Bush commented on the low gas/electricity charges on the New Hall. Town Clerk explained that the fixed term contract has meant that the Town Council now receive very good rates/charges for both the town and new hall. There were questions raised from Cllrs Holdman, Burke and Griggs around multiple payments to the same companies during one month. The Town Clerk explained that these were sometimes one-off charges and sometimes for contractual services, which are often provided by the same companies.
- d) Town Clerk presented the draft budget and recommendations for 2023/24. Members reviewed the budget proposal put together by Town Clerk and Assistant to Town Clerk. There were a number of amendments to the figures proposed including;
 - Town Clerk suggested £2,000 be added to 'Interest Received'
 - Insurance increased to £9,064
 - Canal an increase of £1000, to total of £4,000
 - Tiverton Town Band: Cllr Knowles proposed amendment to draft from £500, to £700
 - Twinning: Cllr Burke proposed amendment to draft from £300 to £400
 - Town Enhancements reduced from £20,000 to £17,000

Therefore, the proposed precept would be £488,102.00, which would be a D Rate of £67.15, this would be an increase of £4.11p from the previous year.
- e) The meeting noted that as we are now within six months of the election in May there would not be a requirement to fill any casual members vacancy on the council.

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Next Meeting; Monday 16th January 2023 6:15pm.