

**Honiton Town
Council Finance
Committee**

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Finance Committee held on 25
February 2019 at 7.00pm at the Beehive, Dowell Street, Honiton**

Members Present

Cllr P Carrigan (Chairman)

Cllr John Taylor

Cllr Mike Jones

Cllr Roy Coombs

Cllr Nicolette Macve

Cllr Duncan Sheridan-Shaw

Cllr Jill McNally

Cllr Henry Brown

Cllr Vera Howard

Cllr Caroline Kolek

In attendance

Mark Tredwin (Town Clerk)

18/147/F To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from, Cllr Terry Darrant, Cllr John Zarczynski

18/148/F Disclosable pecuniary interests

No pecuniary interests were declared.

**18/149/F To note the grant of dispensations made by the town clerk in relation to
the business of this meeting**

None had been granted.

PART A MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

**18/150/F - To confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the Finance Committee
Meeting held on 26 November 2018.**

Copies of the minutes of the meetings had been circulated in advance.

Members **RESOLVED** to confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the Finance
Committee meeting held on 30 July 2018.

Proposed by Cllr Howard and seconded by Cllr McNally and resolved 10 For, 1
Abstention.

Signed Chair

18/151/F Update report.

The clerk updated members that he was awaiting the outcome of the independent expert into the validity of the claim by the council against **Bailey's Partnership**. This had been carried out on the 6 February and he was hopeful that the outcome would be with officers before the end of February 2019.

The clerk also updated members on the dispute with Honiton Community Complex. He stated that whilst he was aware that the Town Council's offer to settle had been received by HCC and their solicitors, no acknowledgement of receipt had been received as far as he was aware. Consequently, there had been no agreement or rejection of the offer. In addition to this he was unaware that any Full Board meetings had been called to even discuss the offer since the council's representative on the board had not been notified of the receipt of the offer or of a meeting to discuss the offer. Whilst the clerk did not expect the Council's Directors to be participants at the meeting, they should at least have been notified that a meeting was taking place especially bearing in mind that the date of the deadline was the 27 February, i.e. in two days.

Any Updates would be brought to members at the Full Council meeting on the 18 March.

The clerk confirmed that the offer that had been made was based on the scrutinising of the invoices for the past three years, based upon the current lease interpretation as confirmed at a recent meeting involving the authors of the lease and which both sides had in fact agreed to.

Members noted the report. This was proposed by Cllr Taylor and seconded by Cllr Macve with unanimous acknowledgement by members.

18/152/F End of 3rd Quarter financial report for the financial year 2018-2019.

Members had been provided with detailed accounts as well as a summary of the income and expenditure for the current year in advance of the meeting.

The clerk reported that the council was currently in a sound financial position. The internal auditor had come recently and had said the accounts were in a much better position. The clerk thanked Cllr Carrigan with the input that he had made with the way monthly reconciliations were now being carried out and also Cllr Edward's and the Policy group on the changes to the Town Council's Financial Regulations.

The clerk pointed out there are still question marks ahead of the council due to the various actions it was involved in. He advised the council it would be well advised not to take any rash decisions regarding further council activities due to the current action against Bailey's Partnership and also the action by HCC. The council needs to consider its reserves and looks on course to be in a good position at the end of the

Signed Chair

financial year.

We are currently above the advised £100,000 reserve position currently which councillors felt was a good position to be in. The clerk pointed out that the potential legal fees cast a cloud over the financial position. Cllr Taylor pointed out that we might be able to set money aside into future projects funding even though future councils might choose different objectives. The clerk agreed that this would be a good principle to follow and that it would be good for the council to be able to look forwards rather than backwards. The chair suggested that it would be a good idea that at the next Full Council a resolution proposing a virement be made to make a provision for legal fees.

Some discussion took place over ensuring that the Town Council's bank accounts be rationalised. The clerk agreed that this was in progress.

The clerk explained the need to ensure that funds were coded correctly in the accounting software. This helped to cover the need to keep charity income separate from the council's own funds.

The issue with regards HCC confirming that it still possessed assets owned by the council but provided to them to assist with the running of the Beehive was raised. The clerk confirmed that he was still awaiting a full list of these assets and hoped that this would be provided sooner rather than later.

Members resolved to note the report and to accept the reconciled accounts for the 3rd Quarter of the Year 2018-19

Proposed by Cllr McNally and seconded by Cllr Taylor.

18/146/F Meeting closed at 7-24pm