

**Minutes of
Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting
Monday, 20 January 2025**

Present:

Chairman: Cllr. K. Beer

Councillors: P. Burrows, D. Haggerty, M. Hartnell & A. Singh

In attendance: Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk & Facilities Officer.

Public: None

Others: Cllrs. E. Bowman, J. Rowland & J. Russell were also in attendance, but not members of the committee.

22. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. N. Dyke J. Oldfield & C. Wood and the reasons accepted.

23. Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Hartnell declared an interest as an East Devon District and Devon County Councillor and also that his son was a volunteer at the Gateway Theatre Company. Cllr. Haggerty declared an interest as an East Devon District Councillor.

24. Minutes of the previous meeting

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting, held on Monday, 18 November 2024.
(moved Cllr. Singh, seconded Cllr. Burrows)

25. Public Question Time

No members of the public were in attendance.

26. Payments, receipts and unpaid invoices

In line with the Council's Financial Regulations, Members reviewed and **RESOLVED** to ratify the receipts and payments made as of 31 December 2024 and to note unpaid invoices. (moved Cllr. Singh, seconded Cllr. Burrows)

27. Reconciliations

Members **RESOLVED** to note and approve the following reconciliations as of 31 December 2024:

- Treasurers Account – Lloyds
- 32 Day Deposit Account – Lloyds
- Public Sector Deposit Fund – CCLA
- petty cash

(moved Cllr. Singh, seconded Cllr. Haggerty)

28. Budgetary Report – Q2 2024-25

Member reviewed the Council's budgetary position and earmarked reserves as at 31 December 2024 and **RESOLVED** to:

- note the actual financial position, as against budget, as of 31 December 2024
- note the material variances

(moved Cllr. Beer, seconded Cllr. Singh)

29. Lloyds 32-day Notice Deposit Account

In line with the Council's Investment Policy Members **RESOLVED** to close the Council's deposit account with Lloyds and to transfer the balance into the CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund. (moved Cllr. Hartnell, seconded Cllr. Haggerty)

Confidential Items

The Chairman moved that in accordance with the Council's Standing Order 1(d) press and public would be excluded from the meeting during the discussion of the following item on this agenda as the matters being discussed included commercially sensitive information.

30. Update on Town Hall

Councillors considered carefully the submission from the Gateway Theatre Company ('GTC') and associated appendices. In reaching their decision the Committee balanced the request for financial support to enable GTC to continue trading until April, against the Council's duty to the public purse and all residents of the town, taking account of available budgets and the ongoing significant financial risks presented and, whilst acknowledging the efforts made, unanimously, **RESOLVED** to:

- note the update on actions taken and expenditure already incurred and committed
- note the ongoing significant risks to the Council, particularly in relation to its finances
- to recommend to full Council that GTC's request for £20,000 towards operating costs to enable their continued operation until April be declined, due to the likelihood of GTC being unable to repay either that or the other substantial

expenditure already due under the lease and necessary to ensure the safety of the building

- instruct the Town Clerk to write to GTC advising them of the recommendation and the reasons for it.

(moved Cllr. Hartnell, seconded Cllr. Haggerty)

Meeting closed at 6.53pm

Chairman: _____

Date: _____

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