

BARNSTAPLE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Finance and General Purposes Committee

Monday 10th January 2022 at 7.00 pm

The Guildhall, Butcher's Row, Barnstaple

Present: Councillors:

I Roome, J Hunt, J Phillips (Chair), J Carter, A Shah, V Nel (Vice-Chair), J Coates and J Orange

Also in attendance:

R Ward, Town Clerk

S Petters, Assistant Town Clerk

Members of the Public: 0

Apologies for absence:

V Monk, V Elkins, J Wilsher and A Rennles.

**53 To receive and approve apologies for absence.**

Apologies and reasons for absence were received and approved (NC)

**54 To receive any dispensations and disclosable pecuniary or other interests.**

Cllrs I Roome, J Hunt, J Phillips, L York and J Orange as members of North Devon District Council, have a dispensation under SO66 to discuss and vote on any item on the agenda unless the item refers to a financial or legal agreement or dispute between the two authorities.

Cllr I Roome, as a member of Devon County Council, has a dispensation under SO66 to discuss and vote on any item on the agenda unless the item refers to a financial or legal agreement or dispute between the two authorities.

**55 To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 6th December 2021**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022, are approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. (NC)

**56 Financial Reports**

RESOLVED: To approve and note the budget monitoring and Finance Reports for November 2021 (NC).

**57 To approve three cheques not presented to be cleared from the system**

RESOLVED: To approve the following cheques that have not been presented by the recipient to be cleared from the system due to the time period (NC).

<b>Cheque No.</b>	<b>Cheque Date</b>	<b>Value</b>
18093	04/12/19	£5.00
18136	11/11/20	£10.00
18137	18/11/20	£50.00

**58 To receive and consider a proposal for the future use of the Guildhall Café as a community space**

The Town Clerk brought to the attention of the committee that two enquiries had recently been received from people interested in leasing the Guildhall Café space.

The report as presented was discussed by the committee.

Cllr Roome stated that it made sense to undertake the changes as proposed to enable the space to be used a community facility, subject to the correct planning 'change of use' permissions. It is understood that the changes could be reversed, and the space returned to commercial use in future if this was felt to be appropriate.

He proposed that the recommendations as proposed be accepted.

The proposal was seconded by Cllr York.

**RESOLVED:**

- To approve the proposal of converting the current café into a community space, removing all of the kitchen facilities to create a single space with a level floor.
- To investigate, in conjunction with the Future High Street Fund project, the refurbishment of the space, including the access and heating.
- To allocate a nominal sum of £5,000 to undertake initial works from reserves.

The decision of the committee was unanimous.

**59 Budget and Precept 2022-23**

The committee reviewed the Proposed Budget for 2022-23 as presented in the report from the Town Clerk.

RESOLVED: That the Finance and General Purposes Committee should recommend to Full Council a precept of £1,106,387 an increase of £23.00 per year for a Band D Property. (NC)

Meeting closed at 7.30 pm.

Chairman.

Signed: .....

Dated: .....