

**Finance Committee Meeting
21 November 2019**

Present: Councillors Dodson, G Eccles, J Eccles, Hardacre, Hirst, Kenyon, Mitchell, Wilson and the town clerk.

5 members of the public were in attendance

262 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Bugge, Holmes and Womersley.

Resolved that the respective reasons for absence be approved.

263 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr G Eccles declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 5 – Payment of Accounts.

Cllr J Eccles declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 5 – Payment of Accounts.

264 MINUTES

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2019 be approved.

265 SUB-COMMITTEES

Resolved that the respective minutes of the sub-committee meetings held on 25 September 2019 and 29 October 2019 be approved.

266 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Having each declared a pecuniary interest, Cllrs G Eccles and J Eccles took no part in the discussion or vote on this matter and Cllr Mitchell as vice-chair assumed the chair.

Resolved that the respective payment of accounts for September and October 2019 be approved.

Cllr J Eccles resumed the chair at this juncture.

The town clerk reported that he and the council chairman had liaised with Yorkshire Water / Business Stream to obtain a refund of £2,656.79 in respect of the sewerage at Hemsworth Water Park for the period May 2013 to date.

Resolved that the report of the town clerk be noted and approved.

267 GRANT FUNDING

a) Westfield Centre Food Bank

Resolved that the request be declined due to the council's similar alternative provision with the forthcoming luncheon club and that a collection point be maintained at Hemsworth Community Centre for the food bank.

b) Friends of Ashfield House

A representative of 'Friends of Ashfield House' attended the meeting and it was agreed and resolved to defer this item to the next town council meeting.

268 COMMUNITY CENTRE

a) A request for free use of a room for the Yorkshire Ambulance Service
Resolved that the item be deferred pending receipt of further information.

b) A request from St Helens Church to hold a VE Day event on 9 May 2020.
Resolved that the request be approved.

c) Lift maintenance
Resolved that the 12 months maintenance contract with KONE be approved.

d) Review of advice services
The town clerk reported on the take up of the three advice services provided by the council, namely, Citizens Advice, Foundation and legal advice from Carters Solicitors LLP.

The town clerk also reported that Carters Solicitors LLP would not be able to provide the legal advice service after February 2020.

Resolved that:

- The town clerk be authorized to procure an alternative source for the legal advice service.
- The respective reports of the town clerk be noted and approved.

269 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

a) New website
Resolved that a new website be procured.

b) Installation of server
Resolved that the server installation be approved.

270 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON

a) Any tenders received
Resolved that this item of business be conducted after the press and public are excluded.

b) Matters generally pertaining to the event
The town clerk confirmed that all necessary preparations have taken place.
Resolved that the report of the town clerk be noted and approved.

271 KFC/COSTA PLANNING APPLICATION

The council chairman provided an update on the application.

Resolved that the council's objection remain and that it be published on the website but that no further action be taken.

272 MOBILE FOOD AND BEVERAGES UNIT

Resolved that the chair look into the matter and report back in due course.

273 BUDGET UPDATE

The town clerk provided a budget monitoring report for the first two quarters to update members on council expenditure thus far.

Resolved that the report of the town clerk be noted and approved.

274 CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Resolved that this matter not be pursued.

275 EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC

Resolved that in view of the confidential nature of business to be transacted, it is advisable, in the public interest, that the public and press be excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.

276 STAFFING MATTERS

Resolved that staff be given a Christmas bonus commensurate with their length of service and pro rata for those who work part-time.

277 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON - TENDER

Resolved that the tender received be accepted.

The meeting closed at 21:00