

A new item "Miscellaneous Donations", value £12,000, was inserted and the General Reserve item was adjusted to suit.

The heading "notes" was changed to read "assumptions".

RESOLVED: that the draft budget as modified above is recommended for approval by the Town Council.

6. CHAIRMAN'S CHARITY ACCOUNT

It was recommended that the un-presented cheque for £50 was cancelled and the funds made available.

RESOLVED: that the account for the year 2003 is received.

7. INTERNAL AUDITOR

RESOLVED: that J D Henry is reappointed as Internal Auditor.

8. EXTERNAL AUDIT

The Council had received a clean audit. The Bill had increased from £150 + VAT to £650 + VAT because of the payments made to CBC for renovation of the Town Hall had taken the Council's expenditure for the year 2002/3 to over the threshold of £100,000.

RESOLVED: that the external auditor's account is paid.

9. MEMBERSHIP OF CATPC

Although members had previously indicated that they wished to join the Cheshire Association of Town and Parish Councils they wished to reconsider the advantages.

RESOLVED: that the item is deferred to the next meeting after members have considered the advantages of membership.

10. CLERK MEMBERSHIP OF NALCC

RESOLVED: that the Clerk's subscription to the National Association of Local Council Clerks for 2004 of £90 is reimbursed.

11. THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES (MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES) (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2003

A news extract from the Clerks & Councils Direct magazine stating that the law now allows members to be paid allowances and expenses under certain conditions was discussed.

RESOLVED: that the matter should be brought to the attention of the Town Council and that the Borough Council is asked to convene the necessary parish remuneration panel so that the Council has the freedom to make its own decisions.

12. LETTERS OF THANKS FOR DONATIONS

12.1 Mrs Charlotte Peter Rock

RESOLVED: that her letter is received.

12.2 The Event

A letter of thanks from Mrs Dot Flint is attached.

RESOLVED: that her letter is received.

12.3 St John Church, Sandbach Heath

A letter of thanks is attached.

RESOLVED: that their letter is received.

12.4 Sandbach County Primary

RESOLVED: that their note of thanks is received.

13. APPLICATIONS FOR DONATIONS

13.1 Sandbach Christmas Lights Committee

They have submitted an application form seeking their budgeted grant of £2,000.

RESOLVED: that a grant of £2,000 should be made.

13.2 Congleton District Council for Voluntary Services

They have submitted an application form together with a copy of their constitution and their latest accounts seeking a grant of £1,030.

RESOLVED: that a grant of £1,030 should be made.

13.3 Sandbach School Sixth Form – Senior Citizens' Party

They have submitted an application form seeking a grant of £200.

RESOLVED: that a grant of £200 should be made.

13.4 St John Ambulance

They have submitted an application form seeking a grant of £125 for the demolition of a garage.

RESOLVED: that the grant is refused and that the Town Council will use its good offices to persuade the Borough Council to accept the cost.

13.5 Sandbach & District Arts Association

They have submitted an application form seeking a grant of £100 towards their concert planned for 23 April 2004.

RESOLVED: that a grant of £100 should be made.

14. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: that the next meeting of the Finance Committee takes place at 7.15pm on 26 February 2004 at the CVS Building in Hope Street.

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

M R Sherman
Chairman

Ref: FCM220104