



Meeting (No) **Market & Town Hall Committee (3)**
Time & Date **10.00am, 15 November 2023**
Place **Neston Town Hall**
Document **Draft Minutes**

Present: Cllrs Jones (Chair), Hardcastle, Hudspeth, Kynaston and Marple.

In attendance: Z Dean (Chief Officer), T Godfrey (Finance Manager), N McMahon (Corporate Support & Facilities Officer)

PART 1: Items to be considered in the presence of the press and public

32 Public Participation (maximum of three minutes per person)

No members of the public were present.

33 Apologies for Absence

RESOLVED to approve apologies from Cllr Davies for business reasons.

34 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

35 Market & Town Hall Financial Report

- a) Members studied the report in depth, the RFO talked members through all sections and answered queries. The committee noted that it cost over £41,000 to keep the building open, cleaned, and the rates and utilities paid in 2022/23.

The Town Hall had lost income from the termination of previous long-term hire agreements.

RESOLVED to receive the Market & Town Hall financial report 2022/23.

- b) The Chair expressed thanks, on behalf of the committee, to the Finance Manager for his sterling work in producing such a detailed report.

The Finance Manager explained that the breakdown shown was necessary; all costs detailed were a result of the Market & Town Hall being open and operational.

The Committee requested that when the report is sent to CWaC, Neston Town Council states its position by including the following issues/concerns:

- The deficit is met through the budget because the Town Council recognises it is providing a service for local people through the Market & Town Hall assets;
- A request to re-negotiate the Management Agreement is included;
- An increase in the service charge received from CWaC is requested, to take into consideration the increase in utility charges both for the current and previous year, to offset costs in lieu of a current agreement;

31 Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next scheduled meeting will held be on 21.11.23 at 6pm.

The meeting closed at 10.45am

Signed Chair: _____ **Date:** _____