Kirkbymoorside Town Council

Information for the meeting on Monday 20 January 2025

6. Financial matters

a. To report accounts paid since the last meeting of the Council and to approve cheque payments according to the list provided.

Description	Supplier	Total
Christmas supplies - Tub for tree	BATA	10.55
Moorside Room Water Charges	business stream	28.71
Cyber Insurance	Gallagher	334.88
Office Monthly Licence Fee	Friends of Kirkbymoorside Library	150.00
Postage Stamps	Post Office	33.00
Supplies for Flood Response - Toilet Roll	Spar	4.99
Delivery of the Moorsider	Mike Martin	165.00
LED Christmas Lights	C W Strickland & Son Ltd	23.99
2024 Season Contracts	P&A Gospel	7,060.00
Month 9 - PAYE/NICs	HMRC	610.99
Bookkeeping - QE Sept 24	Smailes Goldie Watson Limited	534.00
Sportsfield Electric Bill - 20.11-25.12.24	British Gas	80.21
Cleaning Supplies for Flood Affected Properties	Lidl	14.60
Cleaning Supplies for Flood Affected Properties	Lidl	20.43
Cleaning Supplies for Flood Affected Properties	Yorkshire Trading	88.33
Credit for 3 Bags - Bark for Net Climber @ Old Road	HSS Trading	-303.19
Cleaning Supplies for Flood Affected Properties	Boyes	44.78
Dehumidifier Hire - Kirkby Mills	HSS Trading	449.28
Dehumidifier Hire - Kirkby Mills	HSS Trading	476.10
LED Christmas Lights	Amazon EU SARL	49.99
Office line rental & Broadband	Zen	60.10
Cleaning @ Moorside Room	Deirdre Saxby	30.00
Public Wi-Fi	Welcoms	72.39
Supplies for flood response - milk, tea, coffee, biscuits, bin liners	Spar	10.08
Supplies for flood response - milk, tea, coffee, biscuits, bin liners	Spar	4.54
Christmas supplies - Rope & Cable Ties	Red Squirrel	13.90
Key Cutting - Moorside Room	Red Squirrel	13.90
Supplies for flood response - milk	Spar	1.59
Dehumidifier Hire - Kirby Mills	Hirepoint (York) Ltd	396.00
Compost for Tree Planter	Daisys Garden Centre	5.99
HP Printer Cartridges	JRA Services	65.98
Deposit Refund	HSS Trading	-476.10
Bank Charges	HSBC	40.21
4G Data Sim Contract - CCTV @ Old Road Play Area	Videcom Security Ltd	864.00
Cleaning @ Moorside Room	Deirdre Saxby	30.00
Milk	Spar	1.35

15. To receive information from Power For People on efforts to amend the Great British Energy Bill, and consider continued support of its public advocacy for community-led renewable energy across 2025 by encouraging members of the local community to sign up

Dear Kirkbymoorside Town Council

I write with a good news re our collective efforts to amend the Great British Energy Bill, so that it includes support for community energy.

On Tuesday evening last week, we had an excellent result at the first House of Lords Committee stage debate of the Bill. This was the first chance for members of the Lords to introduce amendments to the Bill and debate them.

During the debate, the Conservative party came on board by fully backing the amendment we organised to include community energy in the Bill. This followed long-running efforts on our part to convince Conservative Shadow Ministers, so we were absolutely delighted.

It was the Earl of Effingham – a Conservative Whip – who read out the very welcome words that confirmed the party's new stance:

"By specifically including community energy schemes, this amendment acknowledges the growing role of grass-roots initiatives in the energy transition. It ensures that GBE will actively support, facilitate and encourage energy generation models that are owned or part-owned by local and community organisations. ... This approach not only helps democratise energy production but empowers communities to take control of their energy future, fostering a more decentralised and resilient energy system. Community-led schemes have proven essential in driving local economic growth, creating jobs and promoting energy independence. By ensuring that GBE is aligned with these objectives, we not only advance environmental sustainability but cultivate a more equitable and diverse energy landscape, one that shifts power back into the hands of local communities."

The response from the Government's Energy Minister, Lord Hunt, to this and the range of Baronesses and Lords from all sides of the House who had spoken in favour of the amendment was:

"On local and community energy, the amendments tabled by the noble Earl, Lord Russell, and the noble Lord, Lord Ravensdale, would essentially include GBE support for community energy schemes in the Bill. ... I will give great consideration to community energy between Committee and Report."

So still a 'no', but with the Conservatives now with us and the Government not holding a majority in the Lords, we will be able to win a vote, if it comes to it.

The Government will want to avoid that, as it would then send the Bill back to the House of Commons, where they would have to tell their own backbench MPs to vote against new wording in the Bill supporting community energy. This would put them in a difficult position: making Labour MPs act against community energy despite many of them having said they want more of it. After the debate, Energy Ministers requested a meeting with us to discuss the situation. With negotiations ongoing, our plan is to continue advocating and organising into the New Year, as the chances of success are now better than ever. The final Parliamentary stages of the Bill are expected to be in mid to late January.

Whether we achieve exactly what we are calling for or not, our efforts on this over the past four months have been invaluable already, as they have caused Energy Ministers to state again and again how important community energy is and that their categorical intention is that the new Great British Energy company will support its growth.

Thank you very much for your support to date, which is helping create steady progress.

Our public update on what happened last week is <u>here</u>, our highlights video of the debate is <u>here</u> and the Parliamentary briefing we provided to members of the House of Lords is <u>here</u>.

Finally, I have an important request. We plan to keep co-ordinating nationwide public advocacy for community-led renewable energy across 2025. The more people we can ask to contact their MP at critical Parliamentary moments, the more effective we will be.

Could Kirkbymoorside Town Council please help by encouraging its members, contacts and local community to help our endeavours by signing up here: <u>https://powerforpeople.org.uk/sign-up</u>?

Kind regards

Steve Shaw

Director



07788 646 933

powerforpeople.org.uk

5-7 Buck Street, London, NW1 8NJ