Town Council Minutes of Meeting

Kidsgrove Town Council Victoria Hall Liverpool Road Kidsgrove Staffordshire

ST7 4EL

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www.kidsgrovetowncouncil.gov.uk



Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 4th November 2021, 7:00pm, Meeting held at The Victoria Hall, Kidsgrove.

21-22-FC6-01 Present

Cllrs A Cooper (Chair), D Allport, S Bowyer, G Burnett, A Cartwright, C Dickens, S Dymond, B Owen, K Robinson, M Stubbs, J Waring, P Waring

Attending: Sue Davies (Clerk), Elizabeth Norton (Assistant Clerk)

10 members of the public present.

21-22-FC6-02 To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs J Owen, S Burgess, K Johnson, V Jukes, M Maxfield and H Maxfield.

21-22-FC6-03 To note declarations of members interests.

None.

21-22-FC6-04 Public Participation

Item number 1 raised:

The Mayor agreed to allow anyone who wished to speak to ask a question or to submit a comment two minutes as per the standing orders.

One member of the public stated that she had read on Facebook that there is a lot of concern about a production that had been cancelled after having sold tickets and wanted to know why the Town Council had cancelled the event. The Mayor informed that the event hadn't been cancelled by the Town Council, but by the hirer.

Another member of the public, who described himself as the hirer in question, asked to speak and did clarify that it was he who cancelled the event due to restrictions imposed on him by the Town. He stated that as well as the numbers restriction, lack of rehearsal time was problematic to him. The member of the public felt that the cast of twenty volunteers, who have been rehearsing for over a year, needed more rehearsals on the stage. Another

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factor he felt was the number restriction to 180 which he felt was stricter than other nearby venues.

The Mayor stated she would give councillors chance to answer the two residents but wished to give her response first, summarised below:

The Mayor informed of the duty of care of the Council to all: staff, visitors and hirers and stressed that it is a busy community venue which serving a population of approximately 25,000 with many hirers.

The hall was closed for many months during covid-19 but the removal of legislation enabled the Town Council to re-open the hall. However, the town Council carefully heeds advice published by the government and ACRE around Covid safety in venues. The government advice and that from ACRE informs that transmission of covid is significantly higher inside in crowded venues and ventilation is key. The Victoria Hall is an old building without a modern extraction system and with little natural ventilation due to the need for fire-doors to remain shut. A recent HSE spot check has confirmed the importance of ventilation in maintaining safety during Covid. The Council also needs to risk assess in regard to its covid measures. Thus, since re-opening, all hirers have been restricted to 180 maximum numbers and the Council has been completely equitable in its treatment of hirers in relation to this. The Council are also accountable for our public spending and have a duty to be completely fair and equitable in all we do including the treatment of hirers.

The Mayor informed that the finance and General Purposes Committee, which has delegated responsibility to oversee the hall management, have previously listened to a presentation by the event organiser who has stated his numbers were 150 for each night. The booking form submitted confirmed this request. The Council has increased the permitted number to 180 for this hirer in line with other hirers – this is an increase of 30, not a restriction.

The Mayor explained that the committee considers safety in the hall and as such, had had to refuse a request for bottle bars in the front foyer due safety measures and to blocking exits.

The Mayor informed that the Council has been without a Facilities Officer and are in the pre-contract stages with the bar tender which has led to the Town Clerk having to carry out the event management role, which includes a lot of out of hours, and which was impacting on her ability to do the job she is employed to do. The Mayor reminded that the hall had many other users who also need providing for. To alleviate this, the committee agreed to not take more bookings until the staffing issues were resolved.

The Mayor further reminded the event hirer that his original list of approximately 20 dates for rehearsals and the event itself was submitted and evaluated. Dates were offered by the Council around existing bookings. Subsequently, several rehearsal dates agreed were cancelled by the hall hirer.

The Town Council has already put forward many hours of officer time and that of members who are volunteers.

Despite no evidence being offered by the event organiser of non-profit making status upon request, the committee agreed that a 20% discount should be applied to all the bookings offered as a good will measure as money is raised for charity, nonetheless.

The unprecedented step of rescheduling a Council meeting had also been agreed to accommodate the hirer.

As such the Mayor stated that she felt the Council has tried to accommodate the hirer.

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The Mayor then opened up the floor to others who wished to comment:

Cllr Cartwright asked for some clarification regarding rehearsal time scale in relation to when the event was booked.

Cllr P Waring noted that he had been involved with a meeting with Cllr Cooper and proposals were put forward as to what the Town Council could do to help, some of which had been taken-up and others hadn't. He offered sympathy to the subsequent need of extra rehearsal time. He explained that this had been unavoidable due to staffing issues which was unfortunate but not done to deliberately make like difficult for the event but that the Town Council had stood by what was initially offered.

The event organiser agreed he had cancelled the event but felt there was some contradiction. He did say he disagreed with the decision regarding the pop-up bars and the numbers restriction. He questioned why more councillors weren't being supportive and felt by not being involved, they weren't there for their residents. The Clerk reminded that decisions of the council are made by the corporate body, not individual councillors.

Cllr Stubbs stated that although he hadn't been at the last meeting of the committee, he did support the decisions made. He reminded that all Council members are also volunteers and felt the Town Council had supported. He reminded that the Council are responsible for the building and felt disappointment at the use of Facebook in relation to this that had resulted in threats being made.

Cllr Robinson stated he isn't on the F&GP committee but after listening, he can support the comments made. He felt that that a line should be drawn under matters and hoped that the event could move forward, with success, in the New Year.

Item number 2 raised:

A second resident spoke to ask for assistance regarding Hardingswood Road and 2nd Avenue. The resident felt that the road is narrow and traffic, including large lorries, is unsuitable. There has been a history of damage to cars and parking is an issue because residents have no option but to park on the road. Houses (Harecastle Villas) also been hit by cars. He asserted that residents are also concerned for the safety of school children. There is also a need for resurfacing especially on 2nd Avenue. The resident asked for the town Council's support. The resident circulated some photographs and said he had a link to videos to circulate.

Cllr J Waring responded in her role as County Councillor. She noted that the issue had quite rightly been originally raised by Cllr Robinson in his time as County Councillor. She reported that a survey has been conducted and that she is currently awaiting the results. She sympathised fully with the resident's concerns.

Cllr D Allport spoke as he too lives on the road concerned. He thanked bot Cllr Robinson and Cllr J Waring. He supported comments made by the resident from his own experience.

Cllr K Robinson informed that he was pleased that Cllr J Waring had taken this up. He pointed out that Covid had resulting in delays to the survey. He informed that he has observed the problems first hand too.

21-22-FC6-05 To receive and resolve to approve the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Thursday 9th September 2021.

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting of Thursday 9th September 2021 were approved.

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21-22-FC6-06 To receive and resolve to approve the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on Thursday, 14th October 2021.

Resolved: The minutes of the extraordinary meeting of Thursday 14th October 2021 were approved.

21-22-FC6-07 To receive and note the following draft minutes of Committee Meetings not previously presented to Council:

The following minutes were received by the Council:

- Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of the 2nd September 2021.
- Draft minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of the 28th October 2021.
- Draft minutes of the Events and Community Committee Meeting of the 13th September 2021.

Receipt of the following draft minutes to be deferred until approved by the staffing committee:

• Staffing Committee of the 5th of August 2021.

21-22-FC6-08 Matters Arising – To receive updates on any matters arising from previous meetings:

None raised.

21-22-FC6-09 Finances:

a) To receive and approve the schedule of payments requiring approval.

The schedule of payments, both retrospective and those due for payment, were received and approved by the Council.

b) To receive and approve the Q2 budget report including resolving to agree any budget changes/virements.

The Council received the Q2 budget report and approved the following virements:

- To vire £500 from 4020 (staff training) to 4011 (ICT software and support.)
- To move £1000 into 4091 Victoria Hall Legal expenses from 4093 external contractor security.

21-22-FC6-10 External Audit 2020-2021: To note the completion of the External Audit by Mazars and to note any issues arising and to agree actions.

The Council received the External Audit report from Mazars for the 2020-2021 financial year. There were no issues arising except for a note to provide the year-end bank reconciliation in the requested format in future years.

Thanks were given to the Clerk from Cllr Stubbs on behalf of all the councillors for the work involved leading to a successful external audit report.

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21-22-FC6-11 Policies: To receive and review a draft vexatious policy and resolve to approve or otherwise.

Cllr Robinson and Cllr Cooper expressed support for putting such a policy in place. It was agreed by a majority show of hands, for the draft to be discussed and reviewed by the Finance and General Purposes Committee prior to be brought back to Full Council.

21-22-FC6-12 Quality Council Foundation Level:

The Clerk advised she will compile training records received, verify them with each councillor, but noted that they do not need to go onto the website. Criteria have now been met for foundation level.

The Council agreed by resolution that criteria have been met for the Foundation level and also resolved to agree by a majority show of hands that the council recognises its duties in relation to biodiversity and crime and disorder. It was noted that ongoing discussion should take place to ensure that all members understand these duties going forward in its decision making.

21-22-FC6-13 Grants and donations:

a) To receive a request from Kidsgrove and District Pensioners Association to allow part of a grant allocated in March 2020 for a day trip which couldn't occur due to Covid, to be used to help the group function in the current climate. The epidemic has hampered fundraising and public liability insurance has recently cost £200. The group currently have the grant allocation earmarked.

The council agreed to allow part of the agreed grant allocation given in 2020 to be used to assist in costs in resetting up the group post covid.

b) To receive a grant application from Thursfield Community Centre and to resolve or otherwise to approve payment.

The council resolved to approve the grant request of £500 by a majority show of hands.

c) To consider and approve a donation to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and to agree the amount.

Cllrs Dymond declared an interest in this item and didn't participate in voting.

A suggestion of £100 was made and agreed by a majority show of hands.

d) To consider and approve a donation to the Kidsgrove Rotary hamper appeal.

Cllrs Dymond and Dickens both declared interests as members of Rotary Kidsgrove. Neither participated in the voting.

A suggestion of £200 was made and agreed by a majority show of hands.

e) To consider and approve a request for a donation from Aspire Housing to the Community Gift Appeal. To note that the event is to be held 22nd November at Kidsgrove Tesco and that councillors are invited to support. The Mayor has been individually invited in her civic capacity.

A suggestion of £200 was made and agreed by a majority show of hands.

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f) To review the current grant provision including the residual Covid fund and to resolve to agree any reallocation within the grants and donations budget line.

It was resolved to agree the reallocation of £5000 from Covid funds into Donation's budget line, to allow the Council to make donations when they think they are needed, without having to go through a grant application process.

21-22-FC6-14 To receive and consider a request from Staffordshire County Council to consider their '20 is plenty for Staffordshire.

a) To consider whether the Council would like to request a presentation and or question and answer session.

The council agreed to request a presentation and or question and answer session.

b) To consider the request from Staffordshire County Council to resolve:

"This council would like to inform Staffordshire County council that it supports an approach of default 20 mph speed limits in existing 30 mph areas where people live, work, shop, play or learn subject to appropriate exceptions and where this has community support"

The Council resolved to agree to the statement.

c) To resolve to delegate any further action in respect of this matter to the Planning, Infrastructure and Highways Committee.

The council resolved to delegate any further action in request of this matter to the Planning, Infrastructure and Highways Committee.

21-22-FC6-15 To consider and agree a response to the proposed Police and Crime Plan and Fire Rescue Plan 2021-2024.

Cllr Robinson expressed a view that the Town Council should be asking for more support on the ground and was asked to prepare a draft response for circulation to members.

21-22-FC6-16 Newcastle-under-Lyme Local Plan Issues and Strategic Options Consultation: To consider the consultation and to agree a Town Council response.

It was noted that sites aren't included in the consultation and also that infrastructure needs to reflect the level of new building. Barney's Field was raised along with developers making more contributions into infrastructure.

It was agreed to delegate the matter of a response to the Planning, Infrastructure and Highways Committee.

21-22-FC6-17 Planning Applications to be considered.

It was agreed to defer the planning applications to be reviewed at the Planning, Infrastructure and Highways Committee.

21-22-FC6-18 To receive any feedback from NULBC and Staffordshire County Council and also the Town Council's representatives on other bodies:

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- a) **Staffordshire County Council** Cllr Burnett advised of current Severn Trent Water repairs on the road leading to Market Street, ongoing for the next 4 weeks at the least. As many gullies as possible are being cleared. Overgrown trees are also being worked on. Cllr Waring updated in regards the footpath on Chester Road and reported that work should be starting shortly. The County Council is also a meeting coming up on Monday 8th November on Climate Change.
- b) NULBC It was reported that the customer service office at the Kidsgrove site has now re-opened one morning a week, on reduced services. Complaints regarding swans at Bathpool park getting caught up in fishing wire had been received by some councillors. Cllr Robinson noted that this has been raised previously. He requested support from council members and administration to support in tackling the issue. The clerk confirmed the item would be added to the agenda for Environments and Allotments Committee. Cllr Dymond advised of upcoming work to commence on the A34 to cutback overgrown trees on the footpath.
- c) **Kidsgrove LAP** Cllr J Waring reported that there were no updates due to meetings not yet recommencing with the current pandemic situation.
- d) Talke and Butt Lane LAP It was reported that a zoom meeting had taken place and meetings would continue to be virtual would continue until at least after Christmas. A project was being considered which was currently proving a success in London, where they are displaying Mental Health contact information in streets and signposts directing people to the right places to seek help and support.
- e) Town Deal Board Cllr P Waring provided an update that meetings had been postponed allowing time for the consultant get more information together.
- f) SPCA Cllr Burgess was not present to provide update.
- g) **Kidsgrove Rotary** Cllr Dickens provided an update of work on going in the schools. The Rotary Bonfire is also going ahead this coming weekend. Money raised from this event will used to help people in Kidsgrove. Rotary have purchased a large Gazebo, which will placed in Kidsgrove Town centre once or twice a week, and local supermarkets will be ask to supply their unwanted food, to be available for those in need. The Dementia Friendly Kidsgrove project will be up and running as soon as possible. Sir Lou Macari has now become the Rotary Ambassador for Kidsgrove. Mental Health will be a particular focus.
- h) **Royal British Legion** Cllr Dymond has been promoting the Poppy Appeal in the local Tesco Superstore. Supply of the poppies have gone out to the local schools, shops and pubs, and is getting a good response.
 - The Council resolved to suspend standing orders at 21.10pm to allow the meeting to continue.
- i) Go Kidsgrove Cllr P Waring updated that Go Kidsgrove are currently working to source a Christmas Tree and replacing the lights. He expressed gratitude to the Town Council for any assistance. Go Kidsgrove have received planning permission for the signage for which a grant was received.
- j) Kidsgrove Leisure Centre Group Cllr G Burnett updated on the repairs ongoing on the Sports Centre, and that they have received a good amount of interest for swimming lessons for when the centre is due to open next year.

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k) **Talke Mining Memorial Group** - Cllr Dymond advised they are waiting on a response from contractors so they can receive quotes. A further contractor is being sought.

21-22-FC6-19 CCIN Membership – to receive an update.

No feedback provided.

21-22-FC6-20 To receive Mayor and Clerk's reports and correspondence received.

The Mayor informed that she had opened the new store on Kings Street and had several other civic ceremonies to attend.

The Clerk informed about the Remembrance Day arrangements in place.

The Christmas Market will be taking place Saturday 4th December.

21-22-FC6-21 To agree the date and time of the next meeting: Thursday, 13th January 2022.

21-22-FC6-22 Matters to be considered with the Press and Public Excluded.

Exclusion of press and public: To resolve under 1960 (admission to meetings) Act to exclude the press and public due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.

Resolved: To move exclude the press and public for the following items.

21-22-FC6-23 To receive a report from the interview panel set up by the staffing committee relating to the appointment of a Facilities Officer and to resolve to approve the recommendation.

Resolved: The Council approved the appointment of the new Facilities Officer, Glynn on a contract of 12 hours a week and SPC grade 8 initially.

It was noted that both hours and grade would be reviewed by the staffing committee at the end of the probation period.

21-22-FC6-24 To receive a progress update on the bar contract.

The tender was awarded to Michael Stanier and Marina Giorgino. It was noted the contract is currently being drawn up by the solicitors to be signed.

Meeting Closed 21:35 pm

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Appendix 1 - Payments approved - retrospective

Retrospective payments

<u>Payments</u>

Cb No	Bank Account Name	Month	<u>Date</u>	Payment Ref	Payee Name	<u>Amount</u>
4	Unity Current Account T2	6	20/09/2021	KTC 682	Hi Tec Lift Systems Ltd	168.00
4	Unity Current Account T2	6	20/09/2021	KTC 673	Thomson Planning Partnership L	125.00
4	Unity Current Account T2	6	20/09/2021	KTC 674	Staffs Parish Councillors Asso	40.00
4	Unity Current Account T2	6	20/09/2021	KTC 675	Security Services Group	172.80
4	Unity Current Account T2	6	20/09/2021	KTC 676	Kleenscape The Specialists	344.94
4	Unity Current Account T2	6	20/09/2021	KTC 677	Shires Pay Services Ltd	31.50
4	Unity Current Account T2	6	20/09/2021	KTC 679	Voice 2 Voice	14.23
4	Unity Current Account T2	6	21/09/2021	KTC 683	Ellis Whittam Ltd	112.62
4	Unity Current Account T2	6	20/09/2021	KTC680/681	L Jones Joinery Ltd	1,512.00
4	Unity Current Account T2	6	20/09/2021	KTC 678	Gerry Graham Pantos & Producti	100.00
4	Unity Current Account T2	6	16/09/2021	16/09/21	Unity Trust Bank Credit Card	3.00
4	Unity Current Account T2	6	30/09/2021	CB67	Payroll September	6,924.48
4	Unity Current Account T2	6	30/09/2021	30/09/21	Unity Trust Bank Credit Card	30.00
4	Unity Current Account T2	6	30/09/2021	BACS	Unity Bank	28.50
5	Unity Trust Bank Credit	6	29/09/2021	CB65	Land Registry	9.00
5	Unity Trust Bank Credit	6	29/09/2021	CB66	Newcastle Borough Council	21.00
1	Current Bank A/c	7	04/10/2021	BACS	Barclays Bank	15.25
1	Current Bank A/c	7	05/10/2021	05/10/2021	Unity Current Account T2	50,000.00
1	Current Bank A/c	7	05/10/2021	06/10/2021	Unity Current Account T2	50,000.00
4	Unity Current Account T2	7	18/10/2021	18/10/2021	Unity Trust Bank Credit Card	3.00
4	Unity Current Account T2	7	21/10/2021	KTC 686	J G Fenn	49.80
4	Unity Current Account T2	7	21/10/2021	KTC 687	J G Fenn	65.12
4	Unity Current Account T2	7	21/10/2021	KTC 685	Alpha Business Comms LTD	108.59
4	Unity Current Account T2	7	22/10/2021	KTC 698	Mazars	720.00
4	Unity Current Account T2	7	22/10/2021	KTC 693	Alpha Business Comms LTD	110.39
4	Unity Current Account T2	7	22/10/2021	KTC 691	Kleenscape The Specialists	377.46
4	Unity Current Account T2	7	22/10/2021	692/694-95	Staffs Parish Councillors Asso	90.00
1	Current Bank A/c	7	29/10/2021	CB68	Payroll October	6,924.48
4	Unity Current Account T2	7	22/10/2021	CB69	Newcastle Borough Council	30.00
1	Current Bank A/c	7	29/10/2021	CB68 A	Payroll October	-6,924.48
4	Unity Current Account T2	7	29/10/2021	CB68 B	Payroll October	6,924.48
4	Unity Current Account T2	7	21/10/2021	KTC 690	Voice 2 Voice	12.60
4	Unity Current Account T2	7	21/10/2021	KTC 689	Newcastle Borough Council	840.00
4	Unity Current Account T2	7	21/10/2021	KTC 688	Ricoh	49.78
4	Unity Current Account T2	7	22/10/2021	KTC696/697	Good News Publishing	210.00
4	Unity Current Account T2	7	28/10/2021	KTC 709	CMK Electrical Ltd	2,520.00

04/11/2021

Kidsgrove Town Council 2021/22

17:54

Cashbook transactions totalling -£7,000.00 or more for the period 13/09/2021 to 04/11/2021

Receip	<u>ts</u>			
Cb No	Bank Account Name	<u>Month</u>	Date Banked	Amount Banked
1	Current Bank A/c	7	15/10/2021	7.00
1	Current Bank A/c	7	18/10/2021	9.00
1	Current Bank A/c	7	18/10/2021	12.00
1	Current Bank A/c	7	18/10/2021	19.00
1	Current Bank A/c	7	19/10/2021	11.00
1	Current Bank A/c	7	20/10/2021	14.00
1	Current Bank A/c	7	20/10/2021	11.00
1	Current Bank A/c	7	26/10/2021	3.00
1	Current Bank A/c	7	04/10/2021	1.69
1	Current Bank A/c	7	29/10/2021	20.00
4	Unity Current Account T2	7	05/10/2021	50,000.00
4	Unity Current Account T2	7	05/10/2021	50,000.00
5	Unity Trust Bank Credit	7	18/10/2021	3.00
1	Current Bank A/c	7	26/10/2021	180.00
1	Current Bank A/c	7	18/10/2021	300.00
1	Current Bank A/c	7	05/10/2021	-50.00

04/11/2021				Kidsgrove	Kidsgrove Town Council 2021/22	2021/22					Page 114
18:07				PURC	PURCHASE DAYBOOK	χ					User: SED
	Creditors for Month No 7	nth No 7		o	Order by Ref No						Invoices entered by LIZZIE Posted by LIZZIE
								Nomin	al Ledger	Nominal Ledger Analysis	
Invoice Date	Invoice Number	Ref No	Supplier A/c Name	Supplier A/c Code	Net Value	VAT	Invoice Total	AC	Centre	Amount	Analysis Description
01/10/2021	N202486710	KTC 702	NBC	NBC01	2,000.00	400.00	2,400.00	4085	109	2,000.00	Quarterly Service Charge Q3
01/10/2021	15082	KTC 703	MICROSHADE	MIC01	256.50	51.30	307.80	4011	101	256.50	So ftware Support Hosting Q3
07/10/2021	25	KTC 704	GREENACRES PLANT NUR	GREENACRES	125.00	0.00	125.00	4030	102	125.00 2	25/22-18/Planters and hanging
08/10/2021	NUL/185011	KTC 705	CEF ELECTRICAL	CEF	134.70	26.94	161.64	4090	109	134.70 E	Electrical - Bulb change
17/10/2021	98192	KTC 706	ALPHA	ALPH01	103.35	20.67	124.02	4010	101	103.35 F	Phones and Internet Septemer
21/10/2021	SI-514	KTC 707	SPCA	SPCA01	30.00	0.00	30.00	4021	101	30.00	Training Course Councillor
21/10/2021	SI-517	KTC 708	SPCA	SPCA01	30.00	0.00	30.00	4021	101	30.00	Training Course VAT Councillor
27/10/2021	1695	KTC 709	CMK ELECTRICAL	CMK01	2,100.00	420.00	2,520.00	4063	105	2,100.00	1695/22-23/Christmas Lights
29/10/2021	SINV00526955	KTC 710	FENN	FEN01	3.84	0.77	4.61	4008	101	3.84	Stationary
16/10/2021	72432	KTC 711	V2V	V2V01	10.50	2.10	12.60	4010	101	10.50 F	Ranger Mobile - September
31/10/2021	KLE-1011	KTC 712	KLEENSCAPE	KLS01	349.50	69.90	419.40	4094	109	349.50	Cleaning - October
29/10/2021	148124	KTC 714	CALBARRIE	CALB01	204.00	40.80	244.80	4092	109	99.00	148124/22-21/Health and Safety
								4092	109	105.00 F	Ref PO 22-21 Replacement F-Es
				TOTAL INVOICES	5,347.39	1,032.48	6,379.87		1 1	5,347.39	
			VAT ANALYSIS CODE	OTS @ 0.00%	125.00	0.00	125.00				
			VAT ANALYSIS CODE	S @ 20.00%	5,162.39	1,032.48	6,194.87				
			VAT ANALYSIS CODE	Z @ 0.00%	00:09	00:00	60.00				
				TOTALS	5,347.39	1,032.48	6,379.87				