

**Minutes of The Finance Committee held at The Rackliff Centre on
Monday 14th March 2022 at 7.30 pm**

Members Present:

Cllr M O'Callaghan, Chairman; Cllr D Funnell, Vice-Chairman; Cllr E Ellicott, Cllr B Edwards and Cllr A Britcher-Allan

Officers Present:

Mrs Alison Stevens, Locum Clerk
Chris May Locum RFO

Others and Members of the Public:

There was one member of the public in attendance

1. Enquire whether anyone present intends to film, photograph and/or record the meeting

No one present filmed, photographed or recorded the meeting.

2. To receive and approve apologies for absence

None.

3. Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None.

4. Declarations of Lobbying

None.

5. Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 31st January 2021

The Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on the 31st January 2021 were agreed, and it was RESOLVED that the Chairman sign them as a true and accurate record

6. Clerk's Report on Matters Arising from the Minutes not included elsewhere on the agenda

All matters arising were included elsewhere on the agenda.

7. Open session for questions from the public

Mrs Jenny Blackburn attended the meeting on behalf of the Rusthall Local History Group. She advised members that the group was to close and that it had £708.33 in a bank account. She asked if RPC could mind the funds on the group's behalf until a decision was made on how the money should be spent. It was agreed to add this item to the Full Council agenda in April and in the meantime enquiries would be made whether RPC can lawfully carry out the request.

8. Budget and Precept 2021/2022

- i. The RFO said that all bank accounts were now reconciled up-to-date and preparations for year-end were on schedule. The change over to the new financial year was booked with Rialtas on Monday 11th April so the list of payments for approval at the Full Council meeting on 4th April will be in Word format. He said that there might possibly be payments that needed to be paid before year-end and asked for signatories to monitor their emails to approve them.

There were minor changes to the budget presented at the January meeting mostly caused by additional expenditure that has changed the carry forward figures. The RFO had made changes, which will again be reviewed at year-end on 31st March, to ensure the accounting codes balance. The main recommendation was that the salaries section, which had an underspend of £8,000 be carried forward to offset any extra expenses caused by the hiring of Locum officers. It was RESOLVED to carry forward £8,000 as recommended.

He also said that he would be opening a new account in April for the Mastercard to ensure the VAT is registered correctly.

- ii. Having carefully considered the quarterly review of Receipts and Payments, Councillors RESOLVED to accept and adopt the figures provided.
- iii. Budget Consultation 2022/2023 updates;
 - There was no update regarding the path between Grange Gardens and the lower end of Grange Road.
 - Discussions with Surestart and KCC – Cllr O’Callaghan had been in contact but there was nothing new to report at this stage.
 - Traffic Island on the A264 – the officer at KCC Highways had responded via County Cllr McNroy with a further update on costings for the crossing/traffic island on A264. UKPN and SE Water had estimated a total of £125,000 for the works and they were still awaiting a cost from Virgin Media. This puts the project in the region of £170,000 which far exceeded expectations and money RPC had ear-marked for the project, unless S106 money is available. The project was therefore put on hold in the medium term.

9. Land to the rear of The Rackliff Centre

There was much discussion regarding what was needed for users and how the garden could look. It was agreed to set aside a budget up to £10,000 for the works and seek three prices. It was noted that all works should be sustainable, and accessible to all users

10. Budget and Precept Planning 2022/2023

The clerk suggested that the salaries be paid at the 20th of the month rather than the end of the month. Councillors accepted this recommendation.

There was also discussion regarding payment to the Kent High Weald Partnership and the RFO noted that this money was held in budget under ‘Fremlin Nature Reserve’ and will be paid upon receipt of an invoice.

11. Items for Information

Cllr Britcher-Allan said that the Environment Committee will be looking for a grant to purchase a thermal camera to help residents manage their heating.

Cllr Edwards said the Boxing Club has acquired a new defibrillator.

12. Next Meeting

The next Meeting was provisionally set for Monday 13th June 2022.

This meeting closed at 8.18pm

..... Chairman

Dated