

**Minutes of The Finance Committee held at The Rackliff Centre on
Monday 11th July 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 D Smith

Officers Present:

Mrs Alison Stevens, Locum Clerk
Chris May Locum RFO

Others and Members of the Public:

There were no members 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. Election of Chairman**
Cllr Ellicott proposed that Cllr O'Callaghan continues in office and this was seconded by Cllr Smith. **RESOLVED** that Cllr O'Callaghan continues as Chairman.
- 4. Election of Vice-Chairman**
Cllr Funnell was proposed by Cllr Edwards and this was seconded by Cllr Ellicott. **RESOLVED** that Cllr Funnell continues as Vice-Chairman.
- 5. Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests**
None.
- 6. Declarations of Lobbying**
None.
- 7. Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 14th March 2022**
The Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on the 14th March 2022 were agreed, and it was **RESOLVED** that the Chairman sign them as a true and accurate record
- 8. Clerk's Report on Matters Arising from the Minutes not included elsewhere on the agenda**
All matters arising were included elsewhere on the agenda.
- 9. Open session for questions from the public**
There were none
- 10. Budget and Precept 2021/2022**
 - i. The RFO said the Unity Trust Bank (UTB) account is reconciled and up-to-date, as is the Mastercard account. He had produced three print outs which showed all the bank

accounts, the Ear Marked Reserves, the spending to date versus budget, and the percentage of budget spent.

- ii. He went into some detail explaining how the different print-outs showed the accounts in different ways. He said that if Councillors thought of any questions after the meeting they should email him and he would give an explanation. Cllr Smith asked for more details about the PWLB loan, He wanted to know what was outstanding and the period left. The Locum RFO agreed to email the committee with the answer.
- iii. Budget Virements: The Locum RFO suggested three transfers to maintain the correct figures.
 - Transfer £14,000 from Salaries to Locum/Agency payments (six months)
 - Transfer £600 from Salaries to Travel
 - Transfer £2,262 from PWLB Repayment to PWLB Interest

After discussion Councillors **RESOLVED** to accept the virements.

11. Land to the rear of The Rackliff Centre

Two quotes have been received for the proposed works and Cllr Ellicott suggested they were both unaffordable. There was much discussion on the subject and all agreed the cost of that project was too high and it was not cost effective for the number of people it would benefit.

Cllr Ellicott proposed a new plan which included a smaller Jubilee Garden, a double garage to house the village youth club mini bus and re-locating the shed. This was generally backed by all. The Locum Clerk asked if Planning Permission was required and it was agreed that pre-planning permission would be sought if the cost was under £100.

RESOLVED to decline the quotes and proceed with the new design.

12. Budget and Precept Planning 2023/2024

The Locum RFO said the budget will be reviewed in September and figures will be presented at the October meeting for discussion. He said that difficult decisions may be required because the rising costs in inflation could mean that if there is no increase there will effectively be a cut in the precept. He said that the precept in Rusthall was one of the lowest in the Tunbridge Wells Borough on a Band D basis.

Cllr O'Callaghan asked if the consultation should be circulated to the village again but it was agreed to consult again in 2023 to coincide with the elections.

13. Items for Information

Cllr O'Callaghan has made some improvements to the website and whilst doing so he noted some Terms of Reference were missing for the Highways and Environment Committees.

The Locum RFO asked how the August payments will be approved as there is no meeting of the Full Council then. It was agreed that a list will be produced as usual and that a councillor (preferably a non-signatory) will be asked to check them prior to any request for authorisation.

14. Next Meeting

The next Meeting was provisionally set for Monday 17th October 2022.

The meeting closed at 8.48pm

..... Chairman

Dated