

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on Tuesday 5th January 2021 at 6.30pm remotely via zoom

PRESENT: Councillors Steve Williamson (Chairman), Andy Long (Vice Chairman), Mike Smythe and Keith Graham

Also present: Jackie Cottrell – Parish Clerk
One member of the public entered at 18.37

00231 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – None

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Long declared a PERSONAL interest in the Village Leaf grant application.

MINUTES

To resolve that the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 8th December 2020 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

00232 RESOLVED to adopt the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 8th December 2020. The Clerk to correct three grammatical errors.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT COVERED ON THE AGENDA - None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

FINANCE 2020/21

5.1. To review and recommend to the Parish Council, payment or otherwise of grants detailed within the 2020/21 budget

The Chairman of F&GP referred to the report sent to all committee members and highlighted resolution 00226. He confirmed the Parish Council had not yet received information from St Mary the Virgin Church Warbleton, regarding their churchyard maintenance costs for 2020/2021 despite the Clerk's numerous attempts at contacting them. A discussion took place and it was agreed that the Clerk would make one further attempt at contacting St Mary the Virgin Church requesting the information. It was to be made clear that if details of expenditure in 2020 was not received before the next Full Council meeting on the 14th January the £625 allocated to St Mary the Virgin would go back into the budget as a non-spend.

GRANTS

6.1. To consider grant applications, received after the closing date and after previous F&GP Meeting, payable in 2021/22, submitted by local groups, societies and organisations and make recommendations to the Parish Council

The Chairman of F&GP led the debate regarding late grant applications. It was agreed the Parish Council should not consider the grant application that had missed the deadline and which could not, therefore be considered at the F&GP Committee on 8th December. The committee felt that adequate attempts had been made to contact organisations that normally applied and extra time had also been given to take into account the changes made to the grant application process.

BUDGET FOR 2021/22

7.1. To discuss and agree the budget for 2021/22 and recommend to the Parish Council

The Chairman of F&GP confirmed to Members that the necessary amendments had been made as agreed at the last meeting. He reiterated the major changes to the proposed budget for 2021/22 was the addition of an infrastructure budget and voluntary overtime hours which could be offered to the Clerk. There were no further comments from Members

00233 It was RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council a budget of £20,002, as set out in the spreadsheet circulated to all Members, for the financial year 2021/22

7.2. To discuss and agree 2021/22 Precept and recommend to the Parish Council

The Chairman of F&GP referred to the report that had been circulated to all Members and reiterated that if the Parish Council used the precept to fully fund the budget there would be a 9.23% increase from last year. The budget had increased by £1,636 and the majority of that increase was due to the new £1,500 infrastructure budget. This had been added as a result of assets in need of repair highlighted in this year's Asset Register. This would represent a £2.35 increase for a band D property. The Chairman of F&GP also referred to the other options suggested in the report which involved using some of the Councils reserves to fund the budget. A discussion ensued. The Chairman of F&GP suggested prioritising the repair work and to agree at a future Full Council meeting which committee would take responsibility for the repair work. The Chairman of the Parish Council recommended the report showing the different options for financing the budget be circulated to all Councillors before the next Full Council meeting.

00234 It was RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council a Precept of £20,002 (representing an increase of 9.23%).

URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCUSSION OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR NOTING and/or INCLUSION ON A FUTURE AGENDA

The Chairman of F&GP confirmed the annual review of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations would be on the agenda at the next meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be arranged for early April

The meeting closed at 19.05