

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Met remotely (via Zoom Video Conferencing) on Monday 14th September 2020 at 7.30pm

PRESENT:

Councillors Claudio Duran (Chair), John Hale, Neil Harris, John Newton-Davies, Lyn Bolton, Janet Churchard

APOLOGIES:

None

OFFICERS:

Simon Thwaites, Parish Clerk
Emma Hostler Deputy Clerk

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There was none.

604 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 1st JUNE 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on the 1st June 2020, having been previously circulated, were reviewed before it was unanimously:

RESOLVED

That the minutes be approved and then signed by the Chair.

605 2020/2021 BUDGETARY CONTROL

Members discussed a budgetary control report circulated with the agenda showing budget and projected outturn for 2020/21. The projected outturn was a net overspend on budget of £1,554 with significantly reduced community centre income offset by projected reductions in expenditure and increased income elsewhere. The projected net position allowed for brought forward budgets totaling £21,362.

It was noted that some data was missing from the report received by some committee members and this was rectified the following day.

606 STAFF OVERTIME

The reporting of staff overtime was discussed, and the Clerk agreed to budget for the element relating to the Project and Amenity Officer separately from 2021/2022.

607 TIMING OF FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Committee Members discussed whether Finance Committee meetings would be better held soon before Full Council meeting (i.e. 7 days) to allow more direct reporting / requests for funding etc. It was agreed the Parish Council Chair would speak to the Clerk in due course and that any changes in dates would be effective from next year.

608 REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS AND DIRECT DEBITS

A review was completed in accordance with Financial Regulations.

609 ARTIFICIAL TURF COURT AT SPENCER MEADOW

Members discussed the reserve of £15,000 for maintenance/enhancement of the two courts at Spencer Meadow. Following discussion it was;

Resolved

To give the Sports and Recreation Committee authority to draw on funds to a maximum of £15,000, with an additional contingency of £1,500 when satisfied that the procurement process has been followed and the correct specification is in place.

610 MATTERS OF NOTE

- It has not been possible in the current circumstances relating to Covid-19 to identify another bank with which the Parish Council may open a bank account and so benefit further from the Deposit Guarantee Scheme. It was agreed that the Deputy Clerk will advance this matter when circumstances allow.

- Members are aware that the Parish Council's external auditor, PKF Littlejohn have returned an unqualified audit for 2019/2020 with no incidental issues requiring attention. This was noted at Full Council on September 9th 2020.
- The Parish Council's insurer, Zurich Municipal, has declined to accept a claim for business interruption resulting from the pandemic. A test case on July 20th did not, the Clerk is informed, relate to the wording within the Parish Council's policy. A claim for discretionary relief of NNDR has however been submitted by the Clerk to the District Council.
- NALC Pay Scales for 2020/21 have been published and circulated to members. The single year award was agreed at 2.75%. The excess on the budgeted uplift of 2% is not material.

611 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA

There were none.

The meeting closed at 8.43pm.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday October 26th 2020 at 7.30pm (via Zoom)

Chair **Date**