



FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Office 01983 752000

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 18th AUGUST 2015 AT 6.30 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER OF THE MEMORIAL HALL

PRESENT: Councillors: C Fleury (Chair), M Wheeler, G Kennett MBE, G Cameron and C Bray.

Members of the public: 0

Clerk: M J Mills

1. APOLOGIES: Cllr C Lillywhite.

2. TO INVITE COUNCILLORS TO DECLARE AN INTEREST IN MATTERS ON THE AGENDA.

None

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the last Finance Committee meeting held on 16th June 2015 were approved.

4. TO ELECT A VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Cllr Gill Kennett was elected.

5. TO CONSIDER THE FINANCE IMPLICATIONS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL'S PROJECT PROCEDURE.

Cllr Wheeler said that he foresaw the majority of initial decisions being made by the Chair of the Finance Committee along with the Responsible Finance Officer. He also felt that there should be an item on every Finance Committee dealing with a) ideas submitted and b) responses from Finance. A template will be needed and Cllr Kennett will prepare this along with Sue Clarke.

Cllr Wheeler stressed that the project procedure should not be a deterrent to projects. It may be necessary to adjust the procedure slightly once it is put into practice.

6. TO REVIEW THE MONITORING SHEET AND BUDGET SHEET.

The Clerk suggested that Cllrs might want to consider changes to the monitoring sheet to show committed expenditure. A suggested template was approved and this to be used at the next meeting.

The existing monitoring sheet and budget were noted.

7. TO CONSIDER ALLOCATION OF THE PROJECTS BUDGET (£30,000) INCLUDING:

a) JUBILEE FIELD

b) STROUD RECREATION GROUND

c) ALLOTMENTS

Jubilee Field

The intention is to have the sand pit filled in and to put in matting for parking along the boundary by the Windmill Lane entrance. The latter has been done at Newchurch. Cllr Wheeler pointed out that parking would require a drainage layer underneath. He will put a specification together. It was felt that a company such as Crown Park would be suitable.

The Committee felt that the sandpit work should be done. Quotes are awaited. This may require removal of concrete posts.

The Avenue Road improvements would have to come from the projects budget. Cllr Wheeler said that there was still no programme for this but it should be in the current financial year. He had asked for a contribution to costs from Isle of Wight Council.

The Clerk confirmed that a draft lease had been received and this was for 30 years with no break clause. Strictly any work would need the approval of IWC and this should be sought now.

Quotes should be obtained.

Cllrs Fleury, Bray and Lloyd are the working party for Jubilee Field.

Stroud Field

Cllr Bray suggested that this could be a project over a few years. What people wanted was a zip wire and a shelter. This needed to be costed up. Also it would probably be necessary to increase the size of the toddler play area.

It was suggested that Simon Hollis at Brighstone Landscaping be approached in the first instance re grass matting.

Cllr Bray felt this was very important because children were not going out of the village and they needed something to do. Cllr Bray felt that equipment should be aimed at a range of ages and it should be slightly different from elsewhere.

It was felt that it would be a good idea to do this over say a 5 year period. The project would need to be priced up but it was suggested that a sum of £10000 per annum might be appropriate. Cllr Wheeler queried whether this might be a suitable use for the proceeds from the Avenues site if it were sold.

The play equipment is checked by Isle of Wight Council weekly and it was felt that this should continue.

Allotments

It was noted that money had not been spent on the allotments for some time. Cllr Wheeler said that the Council needed to know what it would cost. There should be a site meeting to discuss it.

The chairman queried if grant money might be available. Cllr Kennett thought that there could be funds in the lottery. Cllr Wheeler said that it was important that project admin should look at external funding with all projects. Also admin time should be built into projects.

Cllr Kennett mentioned that she had been approached by Age Concern who may be willing to match fund costs on work for reaching communities.

The Chamber of Commerce were now looking at working with parish councils on public realm projects.

8. TO DISCUSS CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS FOR THE VILLAGE THIS YEAR IN ORDER TO MAKE A RECOMMENDATION TO THE FULL COUNCIL.

Cllr Bray suggested bigger trees and better lights.

Cllr Wheeler said that he was hoping for hanging baskets on lamp posts and these could be lit at Christmas.

Cllr Bray suggested pennants for lamp posts which could be changed for different events eg 75th anniversary of Battle of Britain.

There should be trees at the library, the Vine (organised by Rotary) and the Memorial Hall. It was felt that trees should be 16 foot (5 metres) out of the ground and 600 below. Trees should be reserved soon. There was discussion about Black Hut Green and whether there should be a string

of lights or a tree. Cllr Kennett queried whether the car park at Moa Place would be better. It was agreed that there be a site visit.

Cllr Cameron queried whether it would be possible to put in an electric point for Black Hut Green.

It was agreed that the Parish Office should write to shops now to identify who wants to be involved.

The Clerk pointed out the budget for events was £7000 made up of £2000 for Christmas and £5000 for Freshwater Live. Cllr Wheeler estimated that Freshwater Live would be between £3000 and £4000.

Cllr Kennett suggested that preparations for Freshwater Live should start earlier next year and involve more people.

9. OTHER MATTERS

Cllr Wheeler said that there were trees which had grown over the benches at School Green Road and either the benches needed moving or trees cutting back.

Cllr Wheeler mentioned the car park at Moa Place and wondered whether the Council could consider 10 spaces for free 30 minute parking. He had asked Mark Downer for some figures. The farmer's market and the Red Cross were saying that they had lost revenue because of the increase in the car park charges. Cllr Kennett said that WWS&CC income from the car park had remained much the same.

Cllr Wheeler had in mind a garden in front of Eldridges if the Parish Council had control of Avenue Road car park. Cllr Bray suggested events could be held on the car park at weekends.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.