



DRAFT/UNAPPROVED
FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL
Parish Office 01983 752000

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 16th AUGUST 2016 AT 7.35 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER OF THE MEMORIAL HALL

PRESENT: Councillors: C Fleury (Chair), M Wheeler, G Kennett MBE (from item 4), G Cameron, B Hobbs and C Bray.

Members of the public: 0

Clerk: M J Mills

1. APOLOGIES: Cllr Eccles.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the last Finance Committee meeting held on 16th February 2016 were approved. Cllr Wheeler said that so far as Avenue Road was concerned Isle of Wight Council had agreed to funding up to £8500. The actual figure was likely to be £6300. Also with reference to the Library a quotation had been received from Dean Parkman which was in accordance with the project plan.

3. TO DISCUSS FUNDING FOR THE MEMORIAL HALL ISLE OF WIGHT DAY FUNCTION.

This had already been dealt with at the Parish Council meeting. Concern was expressed at the way in which this had been approached.

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

The Chairman ran through proposals. These included a big tree at the Library and a tree at Rapanui. There were 14 trees for shops and businesses (the Baker's shop had requested one). Lights for the yucca tree at Moa Place were £80. Mistletoe stars were also suggested (3 x £300). There would also be a banner at Blackhut Green (£80). A budget of £3600 was agreed. Cllrs Fleury and Bray along with Assistant Clerk Emma Carter would sort out the details. Cllr Wheeler made the point that the Finance Committee should be looking at proposals from other committees and financial issues rather than formulating its own proposals. The Committee thought it would be helpful to have a separate budget heading for Christmas lights.

5. TO CONSIDER FUNDING/HOSTING THE NEWCOMERS LUNCH.

This was agreed. Cllr Wheeler would attend.

6. UPDATE ON THE ANNUAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2016 AND CONSIDERATION OF THE INTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT.

The Clerk said that much more information had been required this year. The auditors had now accepted everything but required the figures to be changed to show Moa Place toilets at a nil value. This was because no money had changed hands.

7. SECTION 106 MONEY (£14500) FOR JUBILEE FIELD – IDEAS FOR PROJECTS.

Cllr Bray said that she would like the container on the field replaced with something better. Cllr Wheeler felt that the Parish Council needed to re-establish its relationship with West Wight Sports and Community Centre. Cllr Wheeler had met with Lee Matthews and representatives from the Football Association. Lee Matthews was setting up a meeting with Sport England. Cllr Bray said that the £45000 payment for the right of way should be spent on young people. She suggested giving a part of Jubilee Field for use as a play area for youngsters from the nearby houses. This could be a joint project with Spectrum.

Cllr Hobbs said that open land by the housing development was like a jungle.

Cllr Wheeler felt that Jubilee Field should be made to work for the community. This needed to be in conjunction with West Wight Sports and Community Centre.

The matter would be put on the agenda for the September meeting of the Parish Council.

8. TO CONSIDER THE NEED FOR A 3 YEAR PLAN/BUDGET.

The Clerk had circulated an example. The Committee agreed that there should be a 3 year plan.

9. STROUD PLAYING FIELDS – ALLOCATION OF A BUDGET.

Cllr Bray said that there would be no expenditure on the plans for enhancement of the area in this financial year. Spring next year would be the earliest to start with planting in the autumn. Grants may be available.

10. PUBLIC WORKS LOANS – TO CONSIDER THE NEED FOR AND AVAILABILITY OF LOANS.

The Chairman pointed out that it had never been cheaper to borrow money. Cllr Cameron thought that the Council should use money it already had. Cllr Wheeler said that the library might require some funding if grants were not available.

11. TO REVIEW THE MONITORING SHEET AND BUDGET SHEET.

The Chairman gave an update on figures.

The monitoring sheet had been circulated and was noted. The Clerk said the main changes to the budget were parish office costs, toilets and the Environment Officer. Also there was no budget for Our Place, communication and Stroud Playing Field (other than grounds maintenance). Also staff budget might need to be increased as staff were under some pressure at present and workloads were continuing to grow.

Cllr Kennett suggested that underspends should be looked at and it should be established why the money had not been spent. The Clerk said that underspends needed to be specifically brought forward into the following year's budget otherwise the money would fall into reserves.

The meeting closed at 8.41 pm.