



DRAFT/UNAPPROVED
FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL
Parish Office 01983 752000

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 15th AUGUST 2017 AT 7.25 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER OF THE MEMORIAL HALL

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

Non-committee members Cllrs Bamford and Harris.

Members of the public: 0

Clerk: M J Mills

1. APOLOGIES: Cllr D Eccles.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the last Finance Committee meeting held on 15th November 2016 having been circulated were approved.

3. UPDATE ON THE ANNUAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2017.

The Clerk reported that the external auditor had raised some minor queries regarding valuations of assets. The Clerk had responded.

4. CONSIDERATION OF THE ALLOCATION OF THE PROJECTS BUDGET.

The Chairman ran through the latest projects list.

Cllr Wheeler updated the committee on the Library. He said that phase 1 was nearing completion and would cost in the region of £6000 on total expenditure of £30000. The Friends of Freshwater Library had also received £3000 from Totland Parish Council.

It was agreed that the £14500 section 106 monies would be retained for the joint Jubilee Field and Stroud project.

Cllr Bamford said that the Parish Council were no longer being asked for a payment towards repairs on the front door.

Cllr Kennett said that so far as the Just Ask project was concerned, Public Health had agreed to fund this for a further 2 years and they were increasing their contribution by £2000. This would need to be considered at the September Parish Council meeting.

5. CONSIDERATION OF BUDGET FOR CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS WITH A VIEW TO MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE FULL COUNCIL.

The Chairman reminded members that lights had been purchased last year but not used. It was agreed to leave the budget at £4500. Discussions on providing the necessary electric supplies should start as soon as possible. So far as Avenue Road was concerned Cllr Wheeler thought lights should be installed as soon as appropriate.

6. TO CONSIDER A REVISED FORMAT FOR THE BUDGET.

A revised format was agreed. This would show the previous year's budget as well as projected current year.

7. TREE WORK – BUDGET IMPLICATIONS.

Cllr Bray said that the tree survey had now been done and the cost was £2300. It was a thorough piece of work with maps and all trees had been tagged. It was noted that the tree work was likely to be over the budget figure. It was felt unnecessary to alter the budget but the committee should be kept advised.

Cllr Bray also mentioned Stroud Coppice. She felt that the budget was insufficient. There was a suggestion that Gift to Nature should be approached to see if they would manage the Coppice.

Cllr Bray wondered if Wayne Isaacson should also be involved.

Cllr Bray had obtained a quote for tree work at Golden Hill which would be discussed with Gift to Nature.

8. TO REVIEW THE MONITORING SHEET AND BUDGET SHEET.

The example of the new format monitoring sheet was felt to be too complex. Cllr Harris suggested a format similar to the FYT Bus showing year to date expenditure and variances which was agreed. This should be provided monthly in future.

9. OTHER MATTERS

It was felt that finance committee meetings should be quarterly.

The Clerk updated the Committee on progress with the sale of the Avenues site.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm.