

WATERBEACH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Finance Committee** of Waterbeach Parish Council held on Tuesday 21 January 2015 at 7.30 pm at the Old Pavilion, Cambridge Road, Waterbeach.

PRESENT:

Cllrs Bull, Gilzean, A. Grant, K. Grant, P. Johnson, Rabbett, Shipp and M. Williamson (Chair)

APOLOGIES

None

14 / 28 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 16 December 2014 were agreed and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

Proposed: Cllr Gilzean. Seconded: Cllr Bull 7 in favour – 1 abstention Cllr Rabbett (not present at previous meeting)

*It was **RESOLVED** in accordance with section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meeting) Act 1960 that as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted at the next agenda item the Chairman asked that in the public interest the public and press be temporarily excluded from the meeting and were instructed to withdraw.*

Proposed: Cllr A Grant. Seconded: Cllr P Johnson Unanimous

The Confidential Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 16 December 2014 were discussed, amended and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

Proposed: Cllr A Grant, Seconded: Cllr K Grant 6 in favour – 2 abstentions Cllrs Bull & Rabbett.

14 / 29 MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No members' interests were declared in relation to any agenda item.

14 / 30 REVIEW OF 2014/15 EXPENDITURE TO-DATE AND FORECAST TO YEAR END MARCH 2015

Cllr M Williamson presented figures for the current year and the following points were discussed: -

- Move expenditure on PPE from Health & Safety to Staff Clothing
- Electricity – Clerk to investigate possibility of putting in a card or coin meter system.
- Look into making a charge to the Beer Festival for use of electricity
- Amount of quote for work on tennis courts to be put into the forecast
- Cost of the audit is now known at £2725.
- Allow £1000 for possible further grants before the end of the year

The Chair emphasised that the legal fees being incurred by the parish council are a result of defending the funds of the council-tax payers against a claim.

It was **RESOLVED** to allocate £3800 in the current year from s106 offsite sports monies (£2000 for the tennis court work and £1800 for the vertidrain work)

Proposed: Cllr M Williamson, Seconded: Cllr Shipp 7 in favour – 1 against - Cllr K Grant

It was suggested allocating contingent income from Tillage Hall for electricity – possibly £500-£750.

The Clerk to investigate and report back on the current situation with the billing for the sports clubs. It was suggested they might be billed more frequently.

Funds can be taken from the play equipment reserve if that heading is over budget for the year.

The committee **RESOLVED** to note the forecast with changes made during the meeting and to ask the Clerk to circulate the revised forecast to the main council.

Proposed: Cllr A Grant Seconded Cllr Bull Unanimous.

14 / 31 BUDGET PLANS 2015-16

A draft budget had been circulated and after discussion it was agreed to split the £2000 recreation ground general costs and allocate £1000 of that to a new category for recreation ground maintenance.

There was some discussion about the current level of precept relative to other nearby communities: more than Landbeach and Milton but less than Horningsea, Cottenham and Histon/Impington

As it was now nearly 9.30 pm it was **RESOLVED** to continue the meeting beyond the two hour limit imposed by standing orders in order to complete the discussion of all matters on the agenda.

Proposed: Cllr A Grant Seconded: Cllr Rabbett Unanimous

It was pointed out that if the Council wished to take out a loan to cover the balance of costs for the Pedestrian Crossing, new regulations required the Council to show it had consulted the village on the matter.

It was **RESOLVED** to investigate the possibility and costs of a PWLB loan.

Proposed: Cllr K Grant Seconded: Cllr P Johnson Unanimous

It was also agreed that the fundraising group be asked to look into the possibility of grant funding for the pedestrian crossing.

The Clerk was asked to prepare a second budget illustration with a 3% increase in the precept to help contribute to the cost of the pedestrian crossing. Both illustrations to be circulated to the full council.

It was noted that the Council should make use of the vehicle reserve for machinery purchases.

The question was raised as to whether the Parish Council could contribute to the cost of gritting the school bus route through Landbeach to Cottenham but it was felt that this was clearly a County Council responsibility. In addition the council should contact Cambridgeshire County Council to reconsider priority gritting routes and in the meantime to divert the bus along gritted routes.

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend the draft budget to the main council meeting, with a suggestion of at least a 3% increase in precept to contribute towards the cost of the pedestrian crossing

Proposed: Cllr A Grant

Seconded: Cllr M Williamson

Unanimous

14 / 32 OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUNDING

No discussion

The meeting was declared closed at 10pm

Chair

Unapproved