

WATERBEACH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Finance Committee held on Wednesday 13 January 2021 via Zoom**

PRESENT / APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Present: Cllrs Bull, Gilzean, Grant, B Johnson, P Johnson, Rabbett, M Williamson

Apologies: Cllr B Williams

Also in attendance: S Mason, Clerk

(Cllr Grant joined the meeting during item 20/22)

20/19 OPEN FORUM

No members of the public were present.

20/20 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 December 2020 were agreed and will be signed as a true record

Proposed: Cllr Rabbett Seconded: Cllr M Williamson In favour: 2 Abstentions: 4

20/21 MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No declarations were made

20/22 REVIEW OF THIRD QUARTER FINANCIAL YEAR FIGURES

The figures for the third quarter had been circulated and were reviewed. Cllr Grant joined the meeting during the review. The following issues were raised:

- could the football renovations works could be carried out before 1 April as there was budget to utilise? The Clerk said a proposal needed to come to Council but she would check optimum timings with the Groundsman
- explore whether it would be possible to obtain a discount on a bulk order of benches if there was a capacity to store them prior to fitment
- check when the last grant payment from the Evelyn Trust was received and make arrangements to submit a final claim (eligibility period ends in January 2021).
- follow up the issue of reinstating a lease with the Beach Social Club for use of the Beer garden
- explore if Covid-related expenditure can be separately identified

No virements had been proposed so these would be considered at the next meeting

20/23 BUDGET PREPARATIONS

a. To discuss a [draft budget for the forthcoming 2021-2022 Financial Year](#) and agree a recommendation to full Council for adoption

An initial draft budget had been prepared. The Clerk explained that there was a facility on Scribe to help facilitate this and going forwards it made sense in business continuity terms to utilise this. This explained why the draft budget sheet was formatted slightly differently to previous years. WPC hasn't used it before and we are still getting to grips with it.

The following issues were raised:

- Cemetery access road - a rough order of cost for the cemetery access road based on a £50/m2 unit cost suggested a proper tarmac job could cost £35,000. Cllr M Williamson envisaged that WPC might want to consider applying for a PWLB loan to carry out this and repay over a 10 year period. A first year budget figure of £5,000 had been put in as a marker for start-up costs and an initial loan repayment may mean this figure was on a light side.
- Bins – budget should also cover potential new dog bin in the vicinity on Bannold Road
- Chittering Playpark – a low maintenance surfacing solution was preferable and the Clerk was asked to explore if any grant funding sources could be approached to which the budget figure of £5,000 could act as match funding.
- Toddler Wheeled Park – the old half pipe was a bespoke design which had been deemed to be non compliant with current legislation. With no remedial course of action identified it might need to be replaced with something different, but it was likely this would be a \$106 expenditure.
- Neighbourhood Development Plan – the suggested budget figure was £5,000. The same figure should be put in for income in case WPC was able to secure grant
- General rec maintenance budget should be increased to £3,500
- Football pitches maintenance – the Clerk to explore if it was feasible that renovations could be undertaken before the end of March.
- The cost centre for Waterbeach Colts to be split into two: adults and juniors and a recommendation made to apply a 50% rent reduction to season rentals by the Colts juniors and the bowls club.

It was unanimously **AGREED** to extend the meeting for a further 30 minutes. Cllr Gilzean left the meeting.

At the conclusion of the discussion it was **AGREED** to recommend the draft budget at Annex A Council for adoption.

Proposed: Cllr Rabbett Seconded: Cllr Bull Unanimous

b. To consider what Precept level to recommend to the council

Taking into account the budget figures, allied to the level of reserves WPC held, it was **AGREED** to recommend to Council that the precept for 2021-2022 should be set £168,092, representing no change to the current Band D Council Tax of £84 per household.

Proposed: Cllr M Williamson Seconded: Cllr Grant Unanimous

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

SIGNED.....DATE.....