

WATERBEACH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Finance Committee** of Waterbeach Parish Council held on Tuesday 28 October 2014 at 7.30 pm at the Old Pavilion, Cambridge Road, Waterbeach.

PRESENT:

Cllrs Bull, Gilzean, P. Johnson, Shipp and M. Williamson.

APOLOGIES

Cllrs A. Grant, K. Grant, Rabbett

14 / 15 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 2 September 2014 were agreed and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

Proposed: Cllr P Johnson. Seconded: Cllr Gilzean 4 In Favour. 1 Abstention (Cllr Bull absent at last meeting.)

14 / 16 MEMBERS' INTERESTS

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

14 / 17 REVIEW OF ACCOUNTS

The Budget vs Actual figures for the Second Quarter 2014-15 were reviewed and the variances explained. Virements had been entered as discussed at the previous committee meeting. After the various adjustments, we are close to being on budget after six months.

Specifics were noted as follows: -

- The machinery store electricity includes the power supply for Tillage Hall as well as the area at the back of the store used by the sports clubs. In due course Tillage Hall usage will be reimbursed. The Groundsman's store uses little electricity – lighting, a space heater in the winter and power tools on occasion.
- The cost of the new door is covered by insurance (less an excess).
- A new heading has been added to the budget for general recreation ground costs but with adjustment to various sub-headings the overall recreation ground budget has been reduced.
- £1500 was added to the budget for the planned tennis court maintenance next spring.
- There was discussion but no recommendation about a possible separate capital budget.
- Cllrs P Johnson, Gaunt and J Williamson had attended a funding fair and had a lot of information about potential funding available. It was agreed grant funding should be applied for more frequently – for example for the improvements to the ramp access at the Old Pavilion. (see also item 14/21 below).
- The electricity supply at the Old Pavilion feeds the outside training floodlights.
- The water supply at the Old Pavilion also feeds the Bowls Pavilion and Bowls Green
- The £4400 deposit sent to Wren against the Skatepark grant is shown under Grants and Donations.

- The large sums under Health and Safety were from earlier in the year – dog gloves and new fire extinguishers.
- Income from burial fees is higher than anticipated.
- Sports club income is still under budget. Payments are gradually being brought up to date after which this budget element will need to be reviewed.

14 / 18 BANK ACCOUNTS

The interest rate from Cambridge and Counties Bank has been reduced from 2.5% to 1.5%. Interest has been received from Close Brothers and is still to be added to the income records.

14 / 19 REVIEW OF S106 EXPENDITURE

In response to a query, the Clerk explained that the s106 monies allocated for community facilities can be spent on venues such as the Tillage Hall or the community building at the school where the library is located – venues which are available for use by groups in the community. The Chair suspended standing orders to allow Cllr Gaunt to contribute information regarding the fact that it would also be possible for the school to apply for lottery funding for the community building.

After some discussion it was **RESOLVED** to note the report on the position to-date and to recommend to the Council that the cost of the vertidrainage and 50% of the cost of the white-liner (50% had been covered by a grant) be allocated from s106 off-site sports funds.

Proposed: Cllr Bull. Seconded Cllr Shipp. Unanimous.

It was also agreed that the committee postpone the question of other possible allocations of s106 funds until after a response has been received from the auditors regarding the challenge to previous such expenditure.

14 / 20 CAM LOCKS

The committee reviewed the report referred from the Planning Committee to consider the financial implications of taking on the open spaces in this development.

Standing orders were temporarily suspended to allow Mr Darlington, resident of Cam Locks, to speak.

There was a discussion regarding the costs and practicalities of maintaining the open spaces and trees in the area in question. Despite concerns about how this situation had been allowed to come about, the committee felt that it was necessary to consider the situation as it is now. As Cam Locks residents are all paying the same level of precept as other residents of the village and the play area and open spaces are being used by other residents of the village, and will in due course be used by residents of other nearby new developments, it was not fair that Cam Locks residents should have to pay the costs of maintaining these areas on an ongoing basis. Also there will be a s106 lump sum due to be paid from the new Cody Road development on the assumption that they will not have to supply play equipment because new residents could use the Cam Locks play area.

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to the Parish Council that, subject to legal formalities and payment of the s106 lump sum for Cody Road, Waterbeach PC should take on responsibility for the Cam Locks open spaces and play area (but NOT the balancing pond).

Proposed: Cllr Shipp. Seconded: Cllr P Johnson Unanimous

14 / 21 PREPARATION FOR BUDGETS 2015/16 AND FUTURE YEARS

There was a short discussion on new initiatives that should be considered for the year 2015/16 – for example the idea of a warden for senior citizens. Committee members agreed to give further thought to what should be included in advance of the next finance committee meeting. The Clerk will produce an outline budget including the regular running costs of the Parish Council for the next finance committee meeting, to which plans for one-off expenditure can be added.

It was agreed to form a fundraising sub-group to research what funding can be raised from outside sources. Cllr P Johnson will spearhead this group.

14 / 22 REPORT ON AUDIT CHALLENGES 2013-14

The Clerk explained that there had been two challenges but no response from the auditors to date. They hoped to respond by the end of November. Further details to be discussed in the closed part of the meeting.

14 / 23 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

*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. M Williamson. Seconded: Cllr. Bull Unanimous.

14 / 24 REPORT ON AUDIT CHALLENGES 2013-14

These minutes are recorded in the Council's Confidential Minutes book

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 9.40 pm.

Chairman