

Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on the 17th December 2019 at the Village Hall, Fishers Close, Great Barford.

Present: Derrick Folbigg (Chair), Graham Pendrey, Di Ames

In attendance: Duncan Edgar, James Rudgley

Apologies: Ann Lovesey MBE

Clerk: Anne Papé

MINUTES

1. To receive and approve apologies for absence.

1.1 Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Lovesey. Councillor Ames was delayed and joined the meeting part way through. The possibility of Anne Papé, Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) joining the Finance Committee would be looked into.

Action – Clerk to ascertain if the RFO could join the Finance Committee

2. Declarations of interest in any matter – being prejudicial or personal.

2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

3. Discuss and agree future projects for inclusion in the budget.

3.1 A draft budget had been prepared by the RFO and was reviewed and discussed by the Councillors.

3.2 The possibility of increasing the total hours for the Clerk's to 34 hours per week was put forward. The increase was proposed to cover the volume of work. This proposal would need to be put to the Full Council for consideration. The draft budget would include provision for increased hours in both the pay and pension budgets.

3.3 Bedford Borough Council would be contacted to ascertain if there would be any change in the cost of the payroll provision.

3.4 The Front Garden Competition would take place this year and therefore the budget for prizes would remain.

3.5 The use of CIL for items such as a new printer would be looked into.

Councillor Rudgley joined the meeting.

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2019/2020 - 133

3.6 The budget for the improvement of open spaces in Chapel Field would remain. The improvement of the open space used for parking in Chapel Field was a possible CIL project.

3.7 The most recent water bill for the allotments was extremely high. The pipe work had previously been investigated for leaks and allotment holders reminded that sprinklers could not be used. The Clerk would contact Anglian Water to ask for advice on the increase in costs.

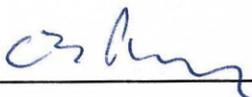
Councillor Ames joined the meeting.

3.8 The Committee agreed to merge General Repairs, Village Hall Area and Amenity Refurbishment under one heading of General Repairs and Refurbishment. The total budget would be £1300

3.9 The proposed budget would require a precept of £69,000. This would be an increase of £4000.

3.10 Income was reviewed. It was agreed that Graveyard and Allotment fees should be reviewed. The grasscutting schedule could also be reviewed to see if costs could be reduced.

3.11 The budget and precept would be reviewed at the January Finance Committee meeting

Signed: _____  _____ Date: 21-01-2020

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