

PEWSEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON 30th JANUARY 2019
IN THE PARISH OFFICE, BOUVERIE HALL, PEWSEY

PRESENT: Cllr Mrs Stevens (Chair), Cllr Ford, Cllrs Mrs Carmichael-Owen, Kerry Pycroft, Ann Hogg, Cllrs Deck, Eyles, Hagan, Haskell, Smith and Smithers.

IN ATTENDANCE: Alison Kent (Clerk).

1. APOLOGIES: Cllrs Mrs Dalrymple, Mrs Hunt, Cllrs Carder, Giles, McGarry, Morris and Stevens.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None.

3. MINUTES OF THE FINAL EXECUTIVE STRATEGY GROUP MEETING: All being in agreement, the minutes of the meeting held on 30th October 2018 were signed as a true record by the Chair.

4. FINANCE:

Current balances as at 30th January: Santander Current Account £48,148.57

Santander Community Instant Reserve Account: £69,956.60

Lloyds Business Account: £494.50

Lloyds Fixed Term Deposit: £60,000.00

Santander Community Instant Reserve Account (Admin): £7,090.63

The donation from the Pewsey Scout Group for £420 towards the BMX site was now shown separately. As the BMX site was no longer in use, the funds would be held until another suitable project was identified.

The budget sheet to 31st December had been circulated. Tenant club rents and grounds maintenance reimbursement had been invoiced with payment expected shortly. Miscellaneous income and expenditure had been inflated by the incorrect receipt of CIL from Wiltshire Council. Additional expenditures such as the Memorial seat, replacement disabled swing, water leak in the public toilets and an increased carnival donation had seen individual budgets as overspent. The toilet refurbishment showed as an in-year expense, however, the earmarked reserve of £20,000 would be used with the difference coming from the general reserve. Discussions would take place to consider whether contributions would commence towards the earmarked toilet fund.

Authorisation of payments were proposed by Cllr Haskell, seconded Cllr Smith, all in favour.

Quotations for the installation of an external light for the new storage area had been obtained. Cllr Deck proposed that West Electrical be awarded the contract, seconded Cllr Smithers, all in favour. Cllr Smithers felt the Council could consider the future use of PV panels on the roof of the building.

5. ADOPTION OF UPDATED FINANCIAL REGULATIONS: Changes to the Financial Regulations had been made to accommodate the move to online banking and had been circulated to all members. Cllr Smith proposed the adoption of the new financial regulations, seconded Cllr Haskell, all in favour.

6. APPROVAL OF ANNUAL INCREASES BY RPI: Cllr Eyles proposed the increase of 3.2%, that being the RPI as at November 2018, to the Burial and Memorial fees with effect from 1st April 2019, seconded Cllr Smith, all in favour.

7. APPROVAL OF RENEWAL OF CLEANING CONTRACT: Cllr Deck proposed to continue the cleaning contract for the public toilets with the current contractor from 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020, seconded Cllr Ann Hogg, all in favour.

8. FUNDING STRUCTURE: Cllr Ford had considered the current structure and noted that significant funds had been set aside for the cemetery, play areas, youth services and community enhancement. While it was an approved practice, Cllr Ford felt that these earmarked funds should be used more proactively. Cllr Eyles explained that the funds had been set aside as contingency funds in the event of an emergency. Cllr Ford was concerned that the auditors could question the level of reserves being held. Cllr Smithers suggested that the Council's properties, the chapel, toilets and Scotchel bridge, should be surveyed to provide information for future planning, Cllr Eyles would liaise with him on this. Cllr Kerry Pycroft asked if funds for community enhancement could be brought back into use as the project list would be revisited. Cllr Smith suggested that the Council needed to be more specific and identify capital projects.

9. TO CONSIDER DONATION REQUESTS: There had been no requests received. Cllr Haskell had been approached by the rugby club to top up a grant that had been awarded recently by the Area Board, as the full amount had not been approved. Members felt that the club had already received a large share of S.106 contributions which had been shared between all the tenant clubs. The Council would note the request, and should any spare funds become available then it would be reconsidered. Cllr Smithers asked who owned the property asset on Parish Council land, Cllr Deck advised that the asset would belong to the club.

10. ONGOING AND FUTURE PROJECTS: Cllr Smith was concerned at the real problem of increased dog fouling across the parish. It was becoming a threat to the appearance of the village and potentially a threat to health. Complaints had been made by local landowners and there were known hotspots. He and Cllr Kerry Pycroft would lead an anti-dog fouling campaign through all media outlets and work with the local schools to launch a design competition. Discussion would take place on whether the provision of dog mess bins was the right answer and he would contact the WC dog warden and RSPCA. It was suggested that the launch could take place at the community morning on 23rd March. Cllr Deck proposed that £500 be set aside for the initial launch of the project, seconded Cllr Ford, all in favour.

Other projects that would be considered:

Planters next to the new Memorial seat in the Market Place – Cllr Kerry Pycroft to obtain quotes

Lighting King Alfred – the Clerk would explore the possibilities

Bridge painting – Cllr Kerry Pycroft to inform the Clerk which ones required attention

Honeysuckle planting – Cllr Mrs Carmichael-Owen would continue with this project

Noticeboard on side of toilet wall – Cllr Kerry Pycroft to obtain quotes

Noticeboard for the west side of the village noticeboard - permission had been granted from WC to site a noticeboard, the Clerk would ask the Carnival Committee for an update.

11. CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Santander – notification of the closure of the Devizes branch on 16th May 2019.

2. NEST – notice of increase to contribution rates from April 2019.

There were no other items of general information.

12. FULL COUNCIL INFORMATION: None.

13. ITEMS VIA THE CLERK: None.

There being no further business, the Chair moved the meeting into Confidential Session.

**PEWSEY PARISH COUNCIL
CONFIDENTIAL ITEM DISCUSSED AT
FINANCE & STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
30th JANUARY 2019**

Litter Picker Salary Approval

Cllr Ford was concerned that the annual increase of the Litter Picker salary by RPI at 3.2% to £13.25 per hour was a high hourly rate and nearly double the minimum wage. The signed agreement with the Litter Pick was a binding contract. There were now 22 volunteer litter ambassadors who were the responsibility of the Parish Council under its insurance and provision of materials.

Cllr Kerry Pycroft commented that when members performed the task when the litter pickers were on annual leave, it was a horrible job to do. There was general agreement that with the likely devolvement of litter bin emptying from Wiltshire Council, that the contract would require review and better enforcement.

Cllr Mrs Stevens proposed that the increase by RPI as at November 2018 be applied to the litter picker's salary with effect from 1st April 2019, seconded Cllr Eyles, all in favour.

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.14pm after thanking members for attending.

Signed.....

Date.....