

Pool-in-Wharfedale Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Pool-in-Wharfedale Parish Council Finance Committee held via ZOOM.US for the purpose of transacting during the COVID 19 PANDEMIC on Monday 25th January 2021 at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillor Rowling in the Chair also present Cllrs Cooke, and Lee.

In attendance: Parish Clerk J. Ryan

FC2020/310 Public Participation

No members of the public were present.

FC2020/311 To accept apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Councillor Mifsud.

FC2020/312 To receive any declarations of personal and prejudicial interests in items on the agenda.

The clerk asked councillors to note that DCLG guidance in relation to dispensations allowed them to participate in council business connected with council tax. "Any payment of, or liability to pay, council tax does not create a disclosable pecuniary interest as defined in the national rules; hence being a council taxpayer does not mean that you need a dispensation to take part in the business of setting the council tax or precept or local arrangements for council tax support".

FC2020/313 To approve the minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 3rd December 2020.

The minutes of the meeting held on the Thursday 3rd December 2020 were approved by the Finance Committee proposed by Councillor Cooke and seconded by Councillor Rowling.

FC2020/314 To receive information arising from the minutes that is not listed elsewhere on the agenda.

No matter arisings not covered by agenda items.

FC2020/315 To consider a Briefing Note on the Draft Budget for the financial year 2021-22.

The clerk outlined the briefing note which suggested a planned expenditure of £51,746.00 for the financial year 2021-22. This will be supported by an agreed Precept of £45,697 with additional income from Council Tax Benefit of £832.00 and additional forms of income totalling £5,466.26.

Changes in expenditure planned for 2021-22 are as follows:

Neighbourhood Plan reduce from	£4,643.47	to	£2,000.
Wharfedale Greenway stays same	£2,000	to	£2,000.
Printing & Stationery reduce from	£1,200	to	£500.00.
Training reduce from	£150.00	to	£100.00.
External Audit increase from	£360.00	to	£400.00
Insurance increase from	£1,300	to	£1,500
Gardening reduce from	£2,600	to	£2,000.
Dog Bins increase from	£1,560	to	£2,000.
Christmas Lights increase from	£1,500	to	£2,000.
Trees & Hedges increase from	£1,500	to	£3,000.
Salaries increase from	£25,600	to	£26,000.

The projected increases/decreases are based on expenditure outcomes this year 2020-21 and on possible inflationary increases in 2021-22.

The Finance Committee agreed to the above changes and to income and expenditure levels for 2021-22. Also, it was agreed that the principles set by the Council in approving a zero-level increase in Council Tax for the year 2021-22 be the same principles that apply to the Ground Rents and that no increase in charges be levied this financial year. Whilst the level of rental income remains the same doing so has no adverse financial impact on the overall financing for 2021-22. Finance Committee agreed that increases in rents should be a consideration in planning the 2022-23 budget.

Members of the Committee reviewed the policy of maintaining 50% of the Main Bank Account to cover expenditure for 2021-22. Balances above 50% in the main account could if agreed be transferred to the Special Projects Account which potentially covers large projects and priorities such as the playgrounds. Whilst a sum of around £15,000 is available to transfer, the clerk suggested a smaller sum would be more prudent given the financial consequences of the COVID-19 -19 pandemic. Members agreed a sum of £5,000 be transferred at the end of this financial year to the Special Projects Account.

RESOLVED

Finance Committee agreed that the above income and expenditure changes be approved along with the Draft Budget for 2021-22 and the proposal to move £5,000 to the Special Projects Account and that these form recommendations to be put before the next Parish Council meeting for agreement by all Councillors.

FC2020/316 To consider an update draft of the Five-Year Financial Strategy.
Changes to the Five-Year Financial Strategy were noted and agreed.

FC2020/317 To approve the Draft Budget for the Financial Year 2021-22.
In the light of the recommendations outlined above the Draft Budget for 2021-22 be approved.

FC2020/318 To agree items for inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting.
To review the Final Accounts for 2020-21
Review Terms of Reference for the Finance Committee
Review Parish Council Action Plan
Review Parish Council Risk Register

FC2020/319 Date and time of next meeting.
Thursday 8th April 2021

Meeting closed at 8.00pm.