

# Pool-in-Wharfedale Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Pool-in-Wharfedale Parish Council Finance Committee held at The Methodist Rooms, Manor Gardens, Pool in Wharfedale on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 6.45pm.

**Present:** Councillor Morris in the Chair and Cllrs Bearpark, Lee, and Rowling.

**In attendance:** Parish Clerk J.Ryan

**FC2015/160 Public Participation**

No members of the public were present.

**FC2015/161 To accept apologies for absence.**

No apologies for absence were received.

**FC2015/162 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 tax payer 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".

**FC2015/163 To approve the minutes of the Meeting held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2015.**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2015 were approved by Finance Committee proposed by Councillor Bearpark and seconded by Councillor Rowling with an amendment to minute 152 bullet point 2 should read February not April.

**FC2015/164 To receive information arising from the minutes that is not listed elsewhere on the agenda.**

No information arising from the minutes.

**FC2015/165 Grants Awarding Policy and Procedure.**

The Finance Committee discussed the revised draft Grants Awarding Policy and Procedure. Councillor Morris proposed the policy be approved and be forwarded to Council for formal adoption. Councillor Rowling seconded the motion. The clerk will write to the main local community organisations informing them of the changes to the grants policy. Councillor Bearpark will arrange for the new policy to be outlined in the next newsletter.

**FC2015/166 Budget 2016-17**

The clerk outlined the draft budget for 2015-16 which incorporated proposals from the last meeting. It was noted that expenditure will be increased in the following areas:

- Newsletters £300.00
- Christmas Lights £300.00
- Staffing Costs £225.53

As far as income for 2016-17 was concerned committee noted the following:

Precept as in 2015-16

Leeds Council confirmed a reduction in council tax grant in 2016-17

- A likely decrease in claimable VAT
- A likely decrease in ground rents
- A likely decrease in grant funding

The budget document also showed the likely bank account balances at the beginning of the 2016-17 financial year. It particular committee noted the movement of funds to the Business Account (Special Projects) from the main account as a result of the decision to reduce the reserve to expenditure to 50%.

Councillor Morris proposed that the budget as outlined for 2016-17 be approved and be recommended to council for formal approval, Councillor Bearpark seconded the motion.

**FC2015/167    The Local Council Award Scheme**

The clerk introduced the report on the Local Council Award Scheme. Finance Committee requested the paper which arose from the clerk’s annual appraisal meeting with the Chairman. The Local Council Scheme exists to celebrate the successes of the very best local councils and to provide a framework to support all local councils to meet their full potential.

The Finance Committee supported the idea that it will be beneficial for the council to try and obtain the Foundation Award the first level of the scheme. By doing so the award will inform the local community that the parish council is being run effectively and meeting its legal obligations.

It was agreed that the report be forwarded to the council’s meeting in April to seek approval to register and apply for Foundation award status.

**FC2015/168    To agree items for inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting.**

Final Budget outturn for 2015-17  
 Budget for 2016-17 for publication  
 Schedule of Work for next Financial Year

**FC2015/169    Date and time of next meeting.**

The next meeting will be held at the Methodist Rooms, Manor Gardens, Pool-in-Wharfedale on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at 6.30pm before the full council meeting.

**FC2015/170    Meeting closed at 7.20 pm.**