

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 12th February 2018 at 6.30pm.

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

In attendance: Parish Clerk J. Ryan

FC2018/239 Public Participation

No members of the public were present.

FC2018/240 To accept apologies for absence.

No apologies for absence received.

FC2018/241 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".

No other declarations of interest were recorded.

FC2018/242 To approve the minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 8th January 2018.

The minutes of the meeting held on the Monday 8th January 2018 were approved by Finance Committee proposed by Councillor Morris and seconded by Councillor Mifsud. An amendment to the record on apologies was approved.

FC2018/243 To receive information arising from the minutes that is not listed elsewhere on the agenda.

None.

FC2018/244 To agree a budget for 2018/19 and make recommendations to Council.

The clerk's report on the projected outturn budget for 2017/18 and the proposed budget for 2018/19 was noted. In the light of further information regarding the spending plan for the Neighbourhood Plan it was agreed to leave the discussion on the budget for 2018/19 for the Council meeting which was to follow the Finance Committee. A new invoice has been received from the Consultants which appears to be beyond earlier quotes received. It was noted that this expenditure if additional must be set against the overall expenditure limit agreed at the last Council meeting.

It was agreed, moved by Councillor Morris and seconded by Councillor Bearpark, that virement from the special projects fund will be needed to support neighbourhood plan spending during the 2017-18 financial year, after taking into account the amount of Government Grant received.

Some discussion took place on the outturn figures for 2017/18 noting a number of overspending areas and grants received.

The Finance Committee will report the latest information on neighbourhood planning spending across the years 2017/18 and 2018/19 to Council and ask the clerk to prepare a new budget forecast for 2018/19 following an analysis of spending to date and predicted spending on the neighbourhood plan. This will be presented to the March Council meeting who will make the final decision on the 2018/19 budget.

FC2018/245 To review the Council's Five Year Financial Strategy in the light of any recommendations from the budget set for 2018/19.

The Chairman stated that there was no need to amend the Five Year Financial Strategy previously agreed in the light of the discussion on next year's budget. The main principles of the plan remain:

- Set aside a significant portion of its cash balances to create a Special Projects Reserve
- Establish and maintain the principle that general reserves should be held to the value of 50% of annual expenditure
- Adopt a cross-years approach to budgeting for the Wharfedale Greenway Project and the Neighbourhood Planning process.
- To maintain the Council's financial and service relationship with the RGMC
- Propose an increase of 5% in the level of precept
- Pursue grant funding where available, most notably in relation to the Neighbourhood Plan.

FC2018/246 To agree items for inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting.

FC2018/247 Date and time of next meeting.

To be arranged.

Meeting closed at 7.25pm.