

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 13th November 2017 at 6.00pm.

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

In attendance: Parish Clerk J.Ryan

FC2017/219 Public Participation

No members of the public were present.

FC2017/220 To accept apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Gray and Rowling.

FC2017/221 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 declarations of interest were recorded.

FC2017/222 To approve the minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 10th April 2017.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 10th April 2017 were approved by Finance Committee proposed by Councillor Bearpark and seconded by Councillor Morris.

FC2017/223 To receive information arising from the minutes that is not listed elsewhere on the agenda.

None.

FC2017/224 To receive a position statement on the Budget for 2017/18.

The clerk outlined the current budget position highlighting areas of overspend and possible overspends later in the year particularly with the Amenities budget. The Council hopes to receive a grant towards the Christmas lights which will bring in additional income to that budgeted for at the beginning of the year. There may still be a slight increase in expenditure, but the council has adequate reserves to deal with any arising. Whilst there may be a drop in balances at the end of the financial year estimated bank balances are significantly above the required sum to protect expenditure within each year.

The report was noted.

FC2017/225 To begin discussions on the budget for 2018/19.

Councillors debated the budget for 2018/19 with particular reference to significant demands on the Amenities budget for ongoing costs of repairs and maintenance at both playgrounds. In particular the annual need for play bark to protect playing areas. The cost of replacing the play bark with a more sustainable surface could be significant and current levels of funding in the special projects fund will be inadequate. Councillors asked that a Business Case be drawn up to replace the surfaces around the play equipment and that consideration be given to an increase in the council's precept to assist with the

costs. Any precept increase should clearly spell out what is to be done with the resulting increased revenue.

Also, it was agreed that the sum of £3,000 be set aside in the 2018/19 budget for the Wharfedale Greenway Project and an increased budget for Neighbourhood plans to cover newsletters and communications with residents.

FC2017/226 To review the Council's Five-Year Plan.

The Chairman indicated that he will update the 5 Year Financial Plan in the light of the comments made on the 2018/19 budget and update other information as required.

FC2017/227 To note the Clerk's Annual Appraisal and determine any training needs.

Councillors noted the Clerk's annual appraisal undertaken by the Chairman and that he had attended the SLCC conference in Leicestershire. Councillors agreed to pay the fees for the conference.

FC2017/228 To undertake the Internal Review of the Council's Financial Records.

Councillors conducted the Internal Review inspecting, cheques, bank statements and invoices for the year to date. No discrepancies were found following a random cross check of invoices and payments. Also provided was a spreadsheet of salary information that was crosschecked with the Monthly Finance Reports.

FC2017/229 To agree items for inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting.

2018/19 Budget Forecast
Council Precept for 2018/19
5 Year Financial Plan.

FC2017/230 Date and time of next meeting.

Monday 8th January 2017 at 6.30pm

Meeting closed at 7.20pm.