

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 14th January 2019 at 6.30pm.

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

In attendance: Parish Clerk J. Ryan

FC2019/248 Public Participation

No members of the public were present.

FC2019/249 To accept apologies for absence.

No apologies for absence received.

FC2019/250 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".

The clerk declared an interest in item 8, Staff Pay Award.

FC2019/251 To approve the minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 12th February 2018.

The minutes of the meeting held on the Monday 12th February 2018 were approved by Finance Committee proposed by Councillor Morris and seconded by Councillor Mifsud.

FC2019/252 To receive information arising from the minutes that is not listed elsewhere on the agenda.

None.

FC2019/253 To consider the Council's Five-Year Financial Strategy and recommend any changes that may be necessary in the light of the budget for 2019/20.

Councillors consider the Five-Year Financial Plan and agreed that no amendments were necessary.

FC2019/254 To consider the precept, agree the budget for 2019/20 and make recommendations to Council.

Councillors discussed the spreadsheets tabled showing the current budget, predicted spend for 2018/19 and a draft budget for 2019/20. In particular, noting current and projected spending on the Neighbourhood Plan, the Wharfedale Greenway, and increases in staff pay for 2019/20.

The Finance Committee agreed that a recommendation be put to Council on raising the Precept by 5% to support the priorities of the Council, namely the Neighbourhood Plan, Wharfedale Greenway and the Children's Play area which are being largely supported through the Special Projects budget.

The Clerk will update the draft budget for 2019/20 to reflect the increase in precept and latest spending predictions for the Neighbourhood Plan. The revised draft budget will reduce expenditure where possible to bring levels of spending to more normal levels and use any surplus created to partially

mitigate the reduction in balances resulting from the high levels of spending on the Neighbourhood Plan and Wharfedale Greenway in 2018/19.

FC2019/255 To consider the 2019/20 Pay Award for Staff

Councillors considered a report from the Clerk outlining the pay award for staff in the 2019/20 financial year. Councillors approved the report and agreed to the new salaries budget estimates for 2019/20.

FC2019/256 To discuss the Internal Review of the Council's Financial Systems.

The Clerk circulated information to assist in the Finance Committee's Internal Review of the Council's financial systems. The information contained a cheque by cheque analysis of spend to date by budget heading, together with bank statements and an updated monthly report that allowed all the information to be cross checked.

The Finance Committee reviewed the information and agreed that the review met the criteria for the Internal Review.

FC2019/257 To approve the Annual Staff Appraisal – Clerk/Chairman

Documents relating to the Staff Appraisal were circulated. The Finance Committee noted the report and satisfactory Appraisal report.

FC2019/258 To agree items for inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting.

To be confirmed.

FC2019/256 Date and time of next meeting.

To be arranged.

Meeting closed at 7.20pm.