

Pool-in-Wharfedale Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Pool-in-Wharfedale Parish Council Finance Committee held at Old Pool Bank Village Hall, Old Pool Bank, Pool in Wharfedale on Monday 9th December 2019 at 6.30pm.

Present: Councillor Rowling in the Chair also present Cllr Lee.

In attendance: Parish Clerk J. Ryan

FC2019/268 Public Participation

No members of the public were present.

FC2019/269 To accept apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Councillor Mifsud.

FC2019/270 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".

FC2019/271 To approve the minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 30th April 2019.

The minutes of the meeting held on the Monday 30th April 2019 were approved by Finance Committee proposed by Councillor Rowling and seconded by Councillor Lee.

FC2019/272 To receive information arising from the minutes that is not listed elsewhere on the agenda.

None.

FC2019/273 To consider the Precept and Budget for the financial year 2020-21.

Councillors reviewed the paper circulated by the clerk, Budget 2019-20 Spend to date and Projected Spend. The paper outlined the original budget for 2019-20, the income received, and expenditure outlaid to date, together with a forecast of likely income and expenditure at the year end.

Income received and not anticipated means that the likely deficit at the end of the financial year will be less than forecast.

Councillors discussed the precept for the year 2020-21 considering previous precept increases, budget priorities for the coming year and generally increasing budget votes in line with inflation. In 2020 the Neighbourhood Plan, Wharfedale Greenway and the Woodlands remain priorities. Staff salaries and expenditure on services such as routine maintenance, trees and hedges, gardening and playgrounds are all likely to increase in the next financial year. A new office computer is also required.

It was therefore agreed that Councillors will recommend to the Parish Council an increase in the Precept for 2020-21 of 7%.

- FC2019/274 To review the Council's Five-Year Financial Strategy.**
The clerk outlined the Council's Five-Year Financial Strategy and informed the Committee that most of the priorities and advice therein was largely still relevant. The Clerk asked that the report be noted and that an updated version be prepared and be submitted to the next meeting in February 2020.
- FC2019/275 To discuss the Internal Review of the Council's Financial Systems.**
It was agreed that this item be deferred until the next meeting.
- FC2019/276 To review the Council's Financial Regulations.**
It was agreed that this item be deferred until the next meeting.
- FC2019/277 To agree items for inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting.**
Budget 2020-21, Review of Financial Systems, Review of Financial Regulations.
- FC2019/278 Date and time of next meeting.**
To be arranged – 10th February 2020
- Meeting closed at 7.15pm.