

Pool-in-Wharfedale Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Pool-in-Wharfedale Parish Council Finance Committee held at The Methodist Rooms, Manor Gardens, Main Street, Pool-in-Wharfedale on Monday 10th February 2020 at 6.30pm.

Present: Councillor Rowling in the Chair also present Cllrs Lee and Cooke.

In attendance: Parish Clerk J. Ryan

FC2019/279 Public Participation

No members of the public were present.

FC2019/280 To accept apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Councillor Mifsud.

FC2019/281 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".

FC2019/282 To approve the minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 9th December 2019.

The minutes of the meeting held on the Monday 9th December 2019 were approved by the Finance Committee proposed by Councillor Rowling and seconded by Councillor Lee.

FC2019/283 To receive information arising from the minutes that is not listed elsewhere on the agenda.

None.

FC2019/284 To consider the Precept and Budget for the financial year 2020-21.

Councillors had agreed at the last Full Council meeting to reduce the proposed increase in Council Precept from 7% to 6%. A draft budget for the financial year 2020-2021 was produced by the clerk on the new Precept figure and circulated to the Finance Committee. An amendment to the income from ground rents was approved, income should have read £1670.52. Other changes listed below were outlined and agreed:

Printing budget increase from £600.00 to £1,000

Website budget reduce from £800.00 to £600.00

Garage Rental budget increase from £450.00 to £500.00

Amenity budget increase from £3,500 to £4,000

Trees and Hedges budget increase from £700.00 to £1,000

Wharfedale Greenway budget increase from £1,000 to £2,000

Staffing costs budget increase from £24,876.72 to £25,954.25

It was noted that expenditure on the Neighbourhood Plan in the current financial year may not exceed the planned expenditure of £8,195.00 and the balance may need to be carried forward into 2020-21. This may have an effect on the proposed expenditure for 2020-21 of £48,074.25. Underspends and overspends are common and are accommodated within Council balances.

Councillors agreed the proposals for the Budget 2020-21.

FC2019/285 To review the Council's Five-Year Financial Strategy.

The clerk circulated the updated Five-Year Financial Strategy prior to the meeting. The Finance Committee have noted the contents and has agreed the Strategy.

FC2019/286 To discuss the Internal Review of the Council's Financial Systems.

It was agreed that this item be deferred until the next meeting.

FC2019/287 To review the Council's Financial Regulations.

Councillors noted that changes proposed by the National Association of Local Councils to Parish Council Financial Regulations mostly concerned parishes which use internet banking. As Pool does not use internet banking systems no changes to our adopted Financial Regulations are necessary. The Financial Regulations will however still be presented to full Council with the date of 2020.

FC2019/288 To agree items for inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting.

FC2019/289 Date and time of next meeting.

Monday April 6th 2020 at 6.30pm

Meeting closed at 7.25pm.