

# Pool-in-Wharfedale Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Pool-in-Wharfedale Parish Council Finance Committee held via ZOOM.US for the purpose of transacting during the COVID 19 PANDEMIC on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 7.00pm.

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

**In attendance:** Parish Clerk J. Ryan

**FC2020/290 Public Participation**

No members of the public were present.

**FC2020/291 To accept apologies for absence.**

No apologies received.

**FC2020/292 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".

**FC2020/293 To approve the minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2020.**

The minutes of the meeting held on the Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2020 were approved by the Finance Committee proposed by Councillor Rowling and seconded by Councillor Cooke.

**FC2020/294 To receive information arising from the minutes that is not listed elsewhere on the agenda.**

None.

**FC2020/295 To Review the Council's Budget mid-year position and year end forecast.**

The clerk had previously circulated a document outlining the budget's planned and predicted expenditure for the financial year 2020-21. Councillors asked a number of questions and accepted the note recognising that it offered little flexibility for additional large growth items without the support of successful grant applications. It was noted that the possible small overspend may be accommodated because the planned spend on the Wharfedale Greenway Project was unlikely within this financial year.

**FC2020/296 To discuss the finances required for completing the Neighbourhood Plan.**

Councillor Rowling brought the committee up to date with progress, the plan is now at its final stage 5. The report on expenditure produced by the clerk was noted. Concerns were expressed about the latest invoice received from the Directions Consultancy and its relationship with earlier quotes and planned work. The Planning Group have decided that future work will be undertaken by themselves and with additional support from Leeds City Council. The Group will contact the Consultants to say no further work from them is required at the moment and should their advice and work be required later they will be contacted directly.

It was noted that further financial support will be needed from the Council's budget, at the moment it is not possible to cost this. However, most of the spending is likely to fall in the next financial year.

**FC2020/297 To discuss other pressures and priorities for the budget this financial year (Playgrounds).**

The Committee discussed information received from Councillors Davey and Rowling who had attended a meeting with Playdale Playgrounds. The main discussion centred around the slide which was considered to be in poor condition and outdated. A new slide was suggested which Playdale costed at around £10,500 for the installation, removing of the old and associated works.

Generally it was felt that given the slide was considered a low risk in terms of potential hazards a better strategy was to seek advice and quotes on a completely refurbished playground, replacing old outdated equipment with new and making the playground more accessible and inclusive. It was also noted that playground equipment specialists will be able to assist with advice about securing grants towards such a project. Further it was noted that the annual Inspection of the Playgrounds will be carried out in the new year.

On the matter of the request from Council to look at the budget in terms of providing financial support towards a scheme to reduce speed limits on Old Pool Bank, this was noted. Councillor Rowling reported that a meeting following the last council meeting with Ward Councillor Barry Anderson and Mr Jamie Baker no mention was made of financial input being required from the council. Councillor Rowling asked that the possibility of moving the SID signs to other locations be something that is considered in the future.

The Clerk asked the Committee to note that the War Memorial was in need of remedial work and cleaning which Leeds City Council had costed at over £3,000. The Clerk has made a pre-application to the War Memorials Trust for grant support. It was agreed that before any work is undertaken the outcome of the grant process should be awaited.

**FC2020/298 To agree items for inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting.**

Internal Review of the Council's accounting procedures and operation.

**FC2020/299 Date and time of next meeting.**

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020 at 7.00pm

Meeting closed at 8.25pm.