



Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance Committee Held on Thursday 27th January 2022 at 7pm via Zoom

Present:

Councillors:

Tim Horton (TH) - Chair
Ian Hill (IH)
Steve Bolingbroke (SB)
Matt Reid (MR)

Officer:

Kristina Tynan (KT)

01/22 Apologies for absence

Roger Beattie (RB)

02/22 Approval of Minutes from 20th December 2021

Resolved: That the Minutes from the Meeting on the 20th December 2021 which were received by Council on 11/1/2022 be agreed as a correct record.

03/22 Matters Arising

There were none other than agenda items.

04/22 Declarations of Interest

There were none notified.

SB reported that he had recently attended the SODC briefing on Ethical Standards. He stated that it not only pecuniary interests that need to be declared but also registrable interest such as if a member of a Charity. If the member wants to take part in discussion he can apply in advance for a dispensation. Also if all members of the Parish Council all have an equal interest eg in a Traffic Plan for the town, the Chairman can apply for a dispensation for all members. A non-registerable interest is something which directly affects your financial interest or wellbeing. Wellbeing can be described as a condition of contentness, healthiness and happiness. Anything that could be said to affect a person's quality of life, either positively or negatively is likely to affect their wellbeing. It is not restricted to matters affecting a person's financial position.

SB said that he believes the Code of Conduct is not well understood by Councillors and that we should be aware of the wider definition. He asked MR to remind people of this at the next Full Council meeting.

05/22 Financial Issues

1. Risk Register Review – IH and MR

MR stated that he and IH have been through this and thought that it needed more put into it eg more on GDPR etc. He said the draft would be available for the March meeting.

It was agreed that we investigate having a H&S officer.

2. Reserve's Policy – this was attached to the agenda.

TH thanked SB for reviewing this paper and sorting out the nomenclature matters and for the added paragraph on CIL.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: That the Financial Reserve Policy be adopted.

3. Discussion of the Financing of the Tree Works as per Martin Gammie's specification –

The Operations Committee discussed this issue on the 20/1/2022 and brought the following recommendation to the Finance Committee and had sent the following statement.

'The Operation Committee noted that we have £3100 in the budget for this year and the same for the next. The total net cost of doing all the works is £8225 (net). If both years budget are used it would give us a total of £6200 available with £2025 still to find. It was agreed that it would be cheaper to do all the works at the same time as if some are done later costs may increase.

The Operations Committee recommend that the Finance Committee allocate the sum of £2025 from General Reserves to enable this work to be done.

However, say £3000 (or even £3500) from reserves would be more ideal so that we have a running budget for 2022/23'.

After discussion, the following was agreed:

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: That Council allocate the sum of £2025 from General Reserves to enable the tree works to be completed.

4. Preferred Contactors List - Deferred to the March Meeting. It was agreed that the Clerk draw up a list of people in various trades that we employ and to also see if there is any guidance on this from OALC.

5. Tendering Process – Not discussed.

06/22 Sports Field Rent Review

SB reported that he had no update.

07/22 Consultations

There were no consultations that needed discussion.

08/22 Correspondence

There was none for discussion.

09/22 Any Other Business

MR reported that he had a meeting with WBA and reported that there has been more footfall in the town and there was a great increase in commerce over the Christmas period. They are looking into more targeted measures. It was noted that this comes under Economic Development in the WDNP and should be reported to the Strategy Committee.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.06PM

Items for the Future Meetings

1. Staff Reviews and Remit for Staff Pay (No update from OALC yet) Issues – March 2022
2. Preferred Contractors List