



PULBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Working together for a better future

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 12TH JANUARY 2023 AT THE SPORTS PAVILION

PRESENT: Cllrs: Clarke (Chairman), Court, Hare, Hunt (from part of Min 53), Kipp and Ellis-Brown

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs H Knight (Clerk and RFO)
1 member of public (to Min. 58)

The meeting opened at 7.34pm

49. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received, and reasons approved, from Cllrs Henly (personal reason) and Hands (personal commitment).

50. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND CHANGES TO REGISTER OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest made. There were no changes made to the register of interests.

51. MINUTES

The Committee **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 17th November 2022 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings, and that the Committee Chairman sign them. There was no Clerk's Report.

52. ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC SPEAKING

There were no public speakers.

53. PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES

Members received bank reconciliations for Cashbook 1 as 31st August 2022 and bank reconciliations for Cashbook 3 as at 31st August 2022. These were **AGREED** when compared to the bank statements and the Committee Chairman duly signed the bank statements.

The Clerk apologised for the continued backlog in processing accounts and was endeavouring to bring all accounts up to date urgently. Although the reconciliations were not completed to 30th September, the income and expenditure had been entered on to the system and a copy of the quarterly I&E to 30th September had therefore been circulated, which Members reviewed. Similarly, the quarterly earmarked reserves statement to 30th September was received and reviewed.

The Clerk reported on overdue invoices totalling £1,015.91 for MSF football hire in October, December and November and club rental for December, which were being followed up. The exact dates of MSF court hire were being established, so the actual amount due may reduce.

54. BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2023-24

Members considered two revised draft budget papers V3 and V4, which took account of the amendments agreed at the previous meeting together with any updated financial information that had emerged in the interim.

V3 draft budget option produced an increased precept of £277,323 and resulted in a Band D of £106.71 per annum, an increase on the previous year of £7.48 or 7.54%. This option incorporated full funding of the Neighbourhood Warden scheme.

V4 draft budget option resulted in a revised precept of £261,423, with a Band D of £100.59 per annum, an increase of £1.36, or 1.37%. This version utilised £15,900 of the Neighbourhood Warden earmarked reserve.

Members discussed both options in detail and considered it circumspect to fully fund the Neighbourhood Warden scheme from the budget, as originally intended, leaving the earmarked reserve available if needed. It was therefore **RESOLVED** to recommend to full Council the budget and resulting precept of £277,323.

55. A29 LANDSLIPS AT CHURCH HILL

This item had been added to the agenda to afford the earliest opportunity for Members to discuss the impacts of the landslips on the village.

Brief discussion took place on events since the landslip on 28th December 2022 and resulting road closure of the A29 Church Hill. Members commented that communications surrounding the incident could have been better at the offset. The incident occurred during the Parish Council office closure for the Christmas break. Some Members had assisted in triggering communications with WSCC at the time, and subsequently several parish/district councillors were in close liaison with the Pulborough County Councillor and WSCC Highways senior officers.

The Parish Office aimed to issue updated communications to its website and social media at least once per week, or more frequently as updated news became available. Unfortunately, the incident is a complex landslip geologically and it is envisaged that a solution will take considerable time to be worked up. Members felt that continued pressure needed to be exerted on WSCC to improve public communications and on expected timeframes for the remedial work and Church Hill road closure, which was significantly impacting other village roads. Currently the road closure was in place to 31st January 2023, but this was expected to be extended.

56. SPORTS PAVILION DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

There was nothing new to update.

57. RISK ASSESSMENTS

It was **RESOLVED** to defer this item to the next meeting.

58. LEASES – PULBOROUGH CRICKET CLUB

Due to the confidential nature of this item (commercial sensitivity), it was **RESOLVED** that press and public be excluded for this item only (SO 3d refers).

Members discussed the further request from the club to reconsider a moratorium on the rent (confidential paper circulated).

It was **RESOLVED** to arrange an informal meeting with Cricket Club representatives and Cllrs Clarke, Hare, Hunt and Kipp to discuss the club's finances: Further, that they be asked to provide a business plan, ideally beforehand, or to bring to the meeting. The discussion would be reported back to the next available Committee meeting.

59. LEASES – PULBOROUGH BOWLS CLUB

The Clerk had not yet heard back from the solicitor, so this item was deferred.

60. CORRESPONDENCE

Members received and noted the Correspondence List, as below.

WSALC

Email 19.12.22 Provisional local government finance settlement 2023/24: Advising that the Government has confirmed that council tax referendum principles will not be set for local (parish and town) councils in 2023/24.

61. PAYMENTS

There were no payments to be authorised.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

.....Chairman

.....Date

UNCONFIRMED