

**MINUTES of the GREAT BUDWORTH PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE
COMMITTEE MEETING
held at the PARISH HALL at 6.45 PM on MONDAY 16th January 2017**

Opened at 6:45pm

1. Welcome and record attendance

Present

Chairman H Brudenell

Council Members P McAndrew, M Kershaw, H Forwood, M Torrance, R Collier, A Lee

Also present

Clerk C Marshall

Public 2

2. Apologies L Hopkinson,

3. Declarations of Interest

None declared

4. Representation from the public

None

5. Approval of the Meeting Minutes for the Finance Committee Meeting held on the 7th November 2016.

Minutes signed and approved as a true record.

6. Budget

(i) To review the budget for 2016/17 against spend to date.

It was noted that spend to date is on track.

Query raised regarding the tree work timetable and cost. Clerk confirmed that the work agreed by the Parish Council with Treefellers was for 4 separate pieces of work over 3 years. Totalling £15,888 (including VAT)

(ii) To agree and approve payments

All payments as outlined on the Budget 2016/17 spreadsheet approved (Appendices 1)

(iii) To receive an update on BT in relation to the parish hall broadband.

Clerk provided update: BT account is now closed and email confirmation has been received that there is no outstanding balance on the account and that the Parish Council is no longer responsible for this service.

(iv) To resolve the matter of reclamation of VAT in relation to the parish hall roof.

The Chairman and invited member of the public Steven Jennings (providing a legal viewpoint on the matter) advised that as the Parish Council owns the parish hall they have an implied obligation to keep it in good order and therefore undertake repairs if required.

The Parish Hall Committee are tenants in situ and have a written agreement signed in 1961 in relation to this. As tenants they have no obligation to undertake major repairs to the hall. Although they do have implied responsibility for minor repairs.

The Parish Hall Committee do have the freedom to choose to make a voluntary contribution to the Parish Council at any time and as such the Parish Council can choose if they wish to use that contribution to repair the parish hall.

Therefore, there is no reason that the Parish Council cannot claim the VAT back for the cost of the recent repair works to the parish hall.

The Chairman also observed the need for the leases of all parish council assets to be reviewed and updated and that this would form part of the Parish Councils work over the coming 12 months.

It was also noted that scaffolding on the parish hall was still erected although the work was completed and that rubbish has been left behind the parish hall.

Clerk to contact the parish hall roof contractors Turners and Sons to resolve.

It was also discussed and agreed that in future the procurement process undertaken by the Parish Council for contractors needs to be more robust.

A concern was also noted about the contractors used for the parish hall roof in relation to their health and safety practices.

(v) To discuss the discontinuation of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme grant payment.

Agreed by all that the Parish Council will claim the full £287 Council Tax Reduction Scheme grant in this years precept rather than in increments over the next 3 years.

(vi) To receive parish project proposals and their costings for 2017/18 for consideration and prioritise a list of projects.

The following projects were proposed:

- Replacement/repair of Cheshire Railings at the bottom of Hugh Street.
- Finials for High Street.
- A change of lights to the Christmas Tree to match other Christmas lights within the village.
- Lighting within the village generally.
- Works to Avenue, clear vegetation to sides and new surfacing.
- Repairs to Top Pump House
- Finalise parking controls / measures
- Review parking strategy for "notional village square"
- Funding opportunities
- Fundraising opportunities
- Community events

It was agreed by all that at the next Finance Committee Meeting on the 6th March 2017 a final list will be agreed.

A questionnaire will then be formulated for members of the community to complete to highlight their views.

It was also agreed that a request for £3000 would be made to the District Councillors Members Budget for internal repairs and external remedial work to the parish hall. Clerk to action.

(vii) To recommend a precept for 2017/18 for Great Budworth Parish Council.

It was agreed by all that the parish council would request a precept of £9391.

The Band D charge for Great Budworth Parish Council in 2016/17 was £43.68, this charge will remain the same for 2017/18.

(viii) To finalise a recommendation for the 2017/18 Parish Council budget.

It was noted by all the reduced funding streams available to the Parish Council in 2017/18.

It was agreed that additional project work funding would need to be secured by grants.

It was agreed that the proposed 2017/18 budget spreadsheet (Appendices 2) be accepted and recommended.

7. Saltscap

Clerk confirmed that the application was submitted in September 2016 but that no further update has been provided to date on the application. *Clerk to contact Saltscap again regarding the application status.*

Closed 7.45 pm

Signed as a true record

**Chairman of the Finance Committee
6th March 2017**

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