

MINUTES of the GREAT BUDWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

held at the Parish Hall at 6.45pm on MONDAY 7th JANUARY 2019

Meeting opened at 6.45pm

1. ATTENDANCE

ACTION

Chairman: R. Collier

Council Members: H. Forwood (HF); A. Lee (AL); M. Torrance (MT); P. McAndrew PMc)

Also present: G. Ayres (new Clerk); R. Ollier (previous Clerk); 2 members of the public.

2. APOLOGIES

L. Hopkinson; H. Brudenell

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared

4. BUDGET 2018 / 19

a) Review of the budget for 2018/19

R. Ollier explained certain items of expenditure, namely

- Maintenance - £599 for Parish Field works (WAP Lawton)
- Grants Fund - £350 paid to The Budworth Bulletin
- Parish Projects - £6,816 for resurfacing of the Avenue (WAP Lawton)

The budget for 2018/19 was reviewed against actual spend and accepted by the Council.

b) Payments

The following payments were reviewed and agreed:

- Treefellers £5460 (Lime Trees on The Avenue)
- Clerk Expenses £30.98 (incl. website domain renewal; Team Knowhow subscription; toner and mileage).

c) Update on VAT issue with Turner & Son (Construction) Ltd

The Council is minded to proceed with a Small Claims Court action to reclaim monies lost as a result of Turner & Son charging VAT but not being registered. However, not wishing to throw good money after bad and given the unlikelihood of the Council getting the money back even if judgement goes in their favour, the Clerk will investigate costs and fees involved in making a claim.

GA

5. NATWEST BANK

A. Lee and R. Collier agreed to be additional signatories on the Parish Council account. The Clerk will investigate how to action this.

GA

6. MOBILE PHONE

It was agreed that the Clerk should be provided with a mobile phone. The best option was considered to be a 24-month contract with EE for an iphone SE at £21 per month with no upfront costs and this was approved by the Council. The Clerk will action this.

GA

7. LIME TREES ON HIGH STREET

Three very different quotations were received reflecting different advice on how best to deal with the problem. P. McAndrew questioned the community value of the work but the Council agreed to accept the quotation of Nick Bowman to replace two trees and prune and train them. M. Torrance will liaise with Noah's Ark.

**GA
MT**

8. LOWER PUMPHOUSE TREES

Three quotations were received and the Council agreed to proceed with the one from Nick Bowman to reduce the crown of the Oak and remove dead wood. Further consideration will be given to how best to deal with the Yew tree.

GA

9. KISSING GATE, THE AVENUE

Only two quotes received to replace the existing stile with a wooden kissing gate. The landowner and CWAC have been consulted and are happy with the proposal. The Council agreed to appoint CWAC's current contractor to supply and install the kissing gate.

GA

10. BUDGET 2019 / 20

R. Ollier presented the first draft of the budget for 2019/20 which needs finalising at the meeting of the Council in March. She explained various headings:

Administration

- Kept basically the same as 2018/19 except for increased Clerk salary due to longer hours; a decrease in website costs following the recent refresh; and election costs. It may be necessary to further amend the projection to allow for mobile phone costs and pension costs. R. Collier will make the necessary arrangements with NEST. Rent payment for the Parish Hall has been included but may need to be revisited.

RC

Maintenance

- The only item included at this stage is £1500 for general maintenance to include strimming and tidy-ups of the Avenue. An allowance will need to be made for the next part of the 3-year programme to be undertaken on the Avenue by Treefellers.

Grants Fund

- £1000 included as in 2018/19 but so far only £350 has been taken up in 18/19.

Parish Projects

- Nothing included at this stage.

Further work is needed to finalise the 2019/20 budget. Councillors agreed to send comments to the Clerk as soon as possible so it can be worked up for before the next Parish Council meeting.

**All
GA**

11. PRECEPT 2019 / 20

The Council agreed to request a Parish Precept of £9,857. This represents a small increase over 2018/19 which was £9,654. However, taking Band D charges as an example, the actual precept charge for a property (£46.17) would remain the same as in 2018/19. The clerk will advise CWAC.

GA

Meeting closed at 7.30pm.

Signed as a true record
Chairman of the Finance Committee