

MINUTES of the GREAT BUDWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

held at the Parish Hall at 6.45pm on MONDAY 4th NOVEMBER 2019

Meeting opened at 6.45pm

1. ATTENDANCE

ACTION

Chairman: R. Collier

Council Members: A. Lee (AL); M. Torrance (MT); J. Bowman (JB); R. Wilkinson (RW); D. Hammond (DH); J. Robins (JR).

Also present: G. Ayres (Parish Clerk); 2 members of the public.

2. APOLOGIES

Cllrs. S Coppel, L. Gibbons; P. Marshall; N. Wright.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs. Bowman and Lee declared interests in tree works and Farthing Lane respectively.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was agreed that the minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 19th August 2019 were a correct record and they were approved.

5. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN 2018-19

Cllrs. were informed of the successful completion of the review by PKF Littlejohn LLP (external auditors). The conclusion of the audit, the report and certificate have now been advertised according to the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

6. BUDGET 2019/20

a) Review of the budget for 2019/20

The budget for 2019/20 was reviewed against actual spend and approved by the Council.

b) Payments

The following payments were reviewed and approved:

- Clerk Expenses £41.39.
- Clerk's salary £294.12 and NEST pension £27.09 for November and December.
- Parish Hall rent for bookings £208.00.

7. BUDGET 2020/21

The Clerk presented budget proposals for 2020/21 in advance of discussions about precept at the next meeting. Income and expenditure for 2019/20 have been projected to year-end giving a cash balance of about £17,000. However, if planned spending on the Avenue and parking initiatives (including Farthing Lane) are factored into the 2020/21 budget, there would be insufficient funds for work on the Parish Field. In previous years a sum of £5000 has been ringfenced for this purpose.

It was agreed that this sum should be retained in the 2020/21 budget, although there was some debate about the extent to which visitors are prepared to park on the Field, except for weddings and funerals. To enable the £5000 to continue to be ringfenced, less funds will be allocated to other parking initiatives. In particular a volunteer working party to undertake work on Farthing Lane will be investigated.

The Clerk will amend the budget for 2020/21 and bring revised proposals to the next meeting.

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8. MEMBERS' BUDGET AWARD SCHEME APPLICATION

£1000 has been granted from the CWAC Members Budget Award Scheme for work on the Lower Pumphouse. The Council wished to put on record their thanks to Cllrs. Gibbon, Marshall and Wright for this.

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9. COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL)

£243 has been received from CWAC in respect of CIL. This can only be spent on physical, social and green infrastructure or other works to address the demands that development places on an area.

10. INSURANCE

A three-year agreement has been entered into with AXA, on the recommendation of brokers Came and Company, for insurance of assets and liabilities at the sum of £615.22 per year. The Policy Schedule was reviewed and approved by the Council.

Until new leases / agreements are reached with the Bowling and Tennis Clubs and Parish Hall Committee they will continue to insure the facilities for which they are responsible, including buildings and property as well as contents and other liabilities such as employers and public.

11. FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

It was agreed that para 11.1.h in the current regulations will be amended to say "above £250" rather than "above £100" with the effect that the Clerk will no longer have to strive to obtain 3 quotations for contracts where the value is between £100 and £250.

This change will also be reflected in the new Financial Regulations which have recently been issued by Cheshire Association of Local Councils (ChALC) and which will be brought to the next Parish Council meeting for approval.

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Meeting closed at 7.25pm.

Signed as a true record
Chairman of the Finance Committee