

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 10TH JANUARY 2014 AT 1.30 P.M AT LISSIAM LODGE MILL LANE TAPLOW

Present

Cllr. John Bamberg (Chairman) Cllr. George Sandy

Cllr. Iris Midlane

Mrs. Hilda Holder –Clerk

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 1.30pm.

FC/01/14 Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

Apologies had been received from Cllr. Euan Felton, Cllr. Rachel Gainey - Corcoran and Cllr. John Kennedy. There were no declarations of interest.

FC/02/14 To approve minutes of the meeting held on 4th October 2013

These were approved and signed by the Chairman.

FC/03/14 Matters arising from the previous minutes

- 3.1 The Clerk was asked to clarify how the Parish Council could invest its moneys and in particular whether money could be invested in merchant banks.
- 3.2 The Clerk advised that she had been in touch with the Environment Agency regarding litter along the Jubilee River and the possibility of putting up a sign or bins. She was advised that SBDC was responsible for litter picking in this area and not them. The Clerk had contacted SBDC and was awaiting a response.
- 3.3 It was noted that the original proposed increase in fuel prices had been revised again by the gas suppliers and next year's bill would be about £1,500 less than first proposed.
- 3.4 Cllr. Sandy reported that the new fire door for the Perkins Room was in place although not quite finished as, unexpectedly, inside panels had been needed which Cllr Sandy had instructed the contractors to undertake as additional work. It was likely this would increase the price by no more than £250.
- 3.5 The Chairman wished to agree the principle to be adopted when deciding how to use the £100,000 received from Land Securities. After debate it was agreed that the moneys should not be used to supplement the Precept for day to day spending nor should it be used to generate an income for parishioners by reducing the precept. It was agreed that in principle the money should be used for a 'legacy' project/s. Cllr. Sandy noted that the original negotiations were on the basis that the monies be used for community and environmental projects although there were no legal obligations attached by the donor regarding how the moneys be spent. It was agreed that a formal policy statement needed to be prepared on this basis.

FC/04/14 To consider obtaining a maintenance plan for the village hall

It was agreed not to pursue obtaining a maintenance plan as it was hoped to upgrade and refit the village hall in due course.

FC/05/14 To consider changing street lighting to LED lights

The Clerk reported that our contractors had advised that it would cost about £3,000 to change all the Parish Council owned street lights to LED lights. The work would be completed within a month and Southern Electric could then be asked to reassess bills.

This should result in using 8 times less electricity and it was reasonable to expect our bills to reduce substantially. Our contractors were of the view the parish Council could pay off its investment from the savings within two years. It was agreed to recommend to the Full Council that the street lights be changed to LED lights.

FC/06/14 To review income and expenditure and consider the budget for 2014/15

6.1 A summary of income and expenditure to date was presented to the meeting. The Chairman commented that income and expenditure was on course and he had no specific concerns. It was agreed that the new fire door should be considered notionally as a legacy project for which the Land Securities moneys could be applied.

6.2 A draft budget was presented to the meeting. The Clerk clarified that the sum for the website was because a quote had been received for £800 to develop the website and £200 pa maintenance costs. For the record the Clerk explained that the quote was from her daughter's boyfriend having exhausted other avenues to find a supplier willing to quote.

6.3 The Chairman was concerned about the quote for work to the trees. The Clerk explained that this was just a guess at this stage. The Clerk was concerned that if the public accessed the Old Priory Gardens ('OPG') then a more detailed arboricultural report was required. It was agreed that a wooden sign saying 'Private Land Enter at own risk' should be installed at the entrance to the OPG.

FC/07/14 To agree a precept for year to 31st March 2015

It was agreed to recommend to Full Council that the precept remain the same at £20,000.

FC/08/14 To recommend changes to the bank mandate

It was noted that the current bank mandate had Cllrs. Sandy, Felton and Mrs. Corio as signatories. It was agreed to leave Mrs. Corio as a signatory in the hope she would return to the council. It was agreed to add Cllr Bamberg as a signatory.

FC/09/14 Any other business

There was none.

FC/10/14 Date and time of next meeting and items for the next meeting

The next Finance Committee Meeting would be on 9th May. Items should include agreeing a policy statement for how to deal with the Land Securities moneys.

The next full council meeting was scheduled for 14th January.

The meeting closed at 2.43pm.

This concludes the Minutes