

TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 9th JANUARY 2019 AT 1.30PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL TAPLOW

Present

Cllr. Claire Price (Chairman) Cllr. Jamie Barnard
Cllr. Roger Worthington Cllr. George Sandy
Mrs. Hilda Holder –Clerk

The meeting was declared open at 1.30pm

FC/01/19 Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

Apologies from Cllr. Gerry O’Riordan and Cllr. Spencer Norton. There were no declarations of interest.

FC/02/19 To approve minutes of the meeting held on 11th January 2018

These were approved by those present and signed by the Chairman.

FC/03/19 Matters arising from the previous minutes

The Chairman noted that the kitchen refurbishment had in fact taken place in this financial year and not the last one. Also, although some proposed expenditure in the budget for this year had taken place – such as new windows for the Perkins Room nevertheless a number of proposed items of expenditure for this year – such as repainting the hall - had not taken place and would need to be reviewed for the budget for 2019/20.

FC/04/19 To review revenue and expenditure for 2018/19

4.1 The Chairman produced figures for income and expenditure to December 2018 and a forecast drawn up to the year end at 31st March 2019. She estimated that the Council would receive an increased income from hall hire than that budgeted for. This seemed mainly to do with the increased hours that Playgroup now pay for.

4.2 She added that in terms of routine budgeted expenditure most items were within budget.

4.3 She reported that £15,500 had been or would shortly be spent on the following projects:-

4.3.1 Kitchen refurbishment - £8,000

4.3.2 Repairing paving slabs - £1,800

4.3.3 Replacing 3 windows in the Perkins Room - £2,750

4.3.4 Replacing Perkins Room top window and office window - £3,000

4.4 She said it was looking likely that there would be about £15,000 in general reserves after accounting for the above as at 31st March 2019.

FC/05/19 To agree a precept to recommend to Council for year to 31st March 2020

5.1 Following debate it was noted that increased expenditure out of precept next year should be budgeted to include £3,000 towards maintenance of certain footpaths and, subject to contributions by the LAF and Burnham Parish Council, the Council was committed to spending £3,375 on streetlights for Institute Road.

5.2 In addition the Chairman summarised the position regarding other projects by proposing that the Council should spend c. £14k out of general reserves (which were likely to be £15K as at 31st March 2019) to cover the following parish projects (all estimates at this point) of which £13K was specifically for hall related upgrades:

Repaint Hall - £4,000

New engineered wooden floor in Perkins Room and hallway - £3,000

New internal doors through-out the Hall - £4,000

New cupboards in Perkins Room - £1,000

New blinds in Perkins Room - £500

New computer for the office - £500

Replace two streetlight heads in Approach Road - £1K

5.3 It was recommended that £1K should be spent on new signs relating to the village hall but that this could be a Land Securities Legacy Fund expenditure.

5.4 It was noted that barn renovations might be funded from the Land Securities Legacy Fund although Cllr. Sandy expressed some concern regarding the barn renovation in general.

5.5 It was noted that consideration should be given in future budgets to the repainting of the Reading Room windows, upgrading the piano and acquiring audio visual equipment.

5.6 It was also noted that the Village Hall roof might need replacing in 5 years' time and that the building fund would need boosting to cover the £30,000 estimated expenditure.

5.7 The Chairman noted that in the light of the additional expense required to deliver these important projects, and the significant planned reduction in reserves, there was a need to increase the Precept to cover this cost. Given the increase in population base of 300 in the parish, the precept in total could already increase from £25,000 to £31,387 without individual tax payers paying more, but we would need to increase this by a further £6,612 to £38,000 to cover the 2 specific incremental projects noted in 5.1. This would result in a 21% increase in the individual precept meaning that each Band D tax payer would only be paying £4.50 pa extra to cover these vital expenses.

5.8 **It was unanimously agreed** to recommend to Council that the Precept be increased to £38,000 for 2019/20.

FC/06/19 To review contracts

It was agreed that as the main current contractors – namely for street lighting and greens maintenance - appeared to be giving good value for money there was no need to review contracts this year.

FC/07/19 Any other business

There was none.

FC/08/19 Date and time of next meeting and items for the next meeting

There were no items for the next agenda. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 4th June 2019 at 6.30pm at Taplow Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 2.50pm.

This concludes the Minutes