

ALRESFORD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING - THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Wednesday 19th October 2022 at 11.00am

Present: Cllrs Frank Belgrove (Chairman), Alistair Broom, Ernie Osborne and Ann Wiggins

Also Present: Mr M Cooke (Clerk) and Mrs A Baxter (RFO and assistant clerk)

Absent: Cllrs Linda Belgrove and Rubina Swash

- 22/013 Apologies for absence:** *To note any apologies.*
Apologies were received from Cllrs L Belgrove and Swash.
Cllr F Belgrove announced that due to technical issues with Scribe item 22/019 would be held over to the next meeting, to be held in November.
- 22/014 Declaration of interests:** To state any interests in the below agenda items.
Cllr F Belgrove declared personal interests in item 22/018 due to being an allotment holder, in the Tendring District Association of Local Council (TDALC) and Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC).
- 22/015 Minutes of the last Meeting:** *To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting of the 17th March 2022.*
It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting of 17th March 2022 are true and accurate.
Proposed: Cllr Broom, Seconded: Cllr Wiggins, all in favour.
- 22/016 To receive an update on actions from the last meeting not covered elsewhere in this agenda.**
Cllr Belgrove: The council is still to open a new account to protect its funds under the £85k guarantee. After a discussion it was agreed to look into a Lloyds account. It was also agreed to recommend to full council that Mr Cooke be given oversight authority on the Barclays account.
The RFO is to speak to the football club about the invoice for the current year.
The RFO is to invoice the football club for the water storage tanks.
As the horticultural society has ceased it was agreed to move the budget to the garden maintenance cost code.
It was noted that with the increase in interest rates it was a good choice not to make an early repayment on the PWLB loan.
It was noted that with the loss of the regular cleaner the council is currently using an interim cleaner and is seeking 3 quotes for the full council.
- 22/017 Summary of 1st and 2nd Quarters of 2022/23.**
The summary has been circulated. To review any material variances and answer any questions.
Also, to consider the impact of the pay award still to be agreed for 2022/23.
The committee reviewed the summary. The following points were discussed:
The RFO is to check when TDC issued its invoice for allotment rental last year as there is no payment so far this year.
It will be up to the PC to decide whether it continues with road repairs now that the Highways Devolution scheme has ceased.
The hanging baskets are only licensed for spring and summer and need taking down.
The skip bins have gone to a weekly collection. There is a H&S issue over whether they have been chaining the bin to the pole and locking it.
An increase was agreed by the council for the Alresford Advertiser fees.
The RFO is to send a breakdown of the grants. It was suggested that we look at a 10% increase to grants when we review the budget.
Cllr Osborne expressed a concern regarding the recycling credits, they should be going up. The council will look into this.

Signature.....

Date.....

It is hoped that the Pavilion hire will increase, but there are issues with the latest hire with how long Ofsted are taking to do the necessary approval.

The RFO is to do the VAT return.

It was suggested that the council goes to TDALC with a suggested grass cutting increase. The Neighbourhood Plan cost code is to be changed to Public Realm. There is no budget but works were approved by council, Mr Cooke is to chase up the invoice.

Money needs to be spent on internal decoration of the Pavilion, so this needs to be added to the budget.

It was suggested that the Mr Sturgeon be asked to quote as an external contractor for the works when quotes are sought.

The PCSO is back and has been on full duties for a month so we can expect to start paying out for that soon. There will be an increase in the rate.

We will be spending more on playground maintenance. It was noted that the council has saved money using the handyman for repairs and maintenance and his standard of work is outstanding. However for the H&S aspect we need Playquip. We need to replace a chain on the swings.

For the borehole expenditure we received a donation from the football club.

The RFO is to invoice the football club for a donation towards the goal that was purchased.

It was discussed that the capital reserve is ringfenced and cannot be used for other types of expenditure.

The situation with Staunton Gate is very frustrating. Funding is to go to TDC first and then to the PC.

We pay an annual maintenance fee for street lighting but no LEDs have failed since the upgrade. We are getting a refund for the electricity as the last of the LED changes has been applied to the account and the cost will then be under budget.

The EALC fee is high, it could do a lot more in what it does for councils.

It was summarised that the council is in a good position financially with expenditure at 40% of the budgeted expenditure. One reason for this is that the PCSO was budgeted for but there was no expenditure in the first 2 quarters.

22/018 Allotment Charges

To review the rental charges for allotments.

The fees have been £20/plot since before COVID. Water, the cutting of the main path and a polytunnel are provided. All allotments are taken and there is a waiting list for both sites. It was discussed that £20 is a very low fee and the council has a duty to consider its income and inflation.

It was resolved to recommend to the Parish Council to increase the fee to £25/plot.

Proposed: Cllr Broom, Seconded, Cllr Osborne, all in favour of those voting. (Cllr F Belgrove abstained due to his personal interest)

22/019 Draft Budget for 2023/24

To review a draft budget and discuss a precept recommendation for 2023/24. (To be finalised once the tax base figures are known).

Held over until the next meeting.

22/020 Review of quarterly bank reconciliations by a non-signatory of the bank account.

Cllr Broom did this after the meeting.

22/021 Meeting closes

The meeting closed at 12.03pm.

Minuted by Angela Baxter – RFO & Assistant Clerk

Contact rfoapcessex@outlook.com

Signature.....

Date.....