

ALRESFORD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING - THE FINANCE COMMITTEE The Pavilion, Ford Lane (To the rear of the Village Hall)

Tuesday 27th November 2018 at 9.30am

Present: Cllrs Frank Belgrove, Linda Belgrove, Ernie Osborne and Ann Wiggins
Absent: Cllrs Simon Clark and George Martin

Also Present: Mrs A Baxter (Assistant Clerk/RFO)

1. **Apologies for absence:** *To note any apologies.*
Apologies were received from Cllr Martin.

2. **Minutes of the last Meeting:** *To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting of the 12th October 2018.*

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting of 12th October 2018 are true and accurate.

Proposed: Cllr Osborne, Seconded: Cllr L Belgrove, all in favour.

3. **Declaration of interest:** *To state any interests in the below agenda items.*

Interests were declared as follows:

Cllr F Belgrove - the Chairman's allowance item in the budget.

Cllr Wiggins – the Family Support grant item in the budget

Cllr L Belgrove – the EALC membership item in the budget

Cllr Osborne – the fete committee

4. **Appointment of Proper Officer (if required)**

Not required as the assistant clerk was present.

Actions from the last meeting were discussed:

The cleaning supplies are now locked. A risk assessment is still to be done.

The cutting of the hedge is to go on the agenda for the full council meeting. Cllr F Belgrove is to speak to the clerk about this.

Mrs Baxter has contacted A&J Lighting regarding their plans for the LED replacements for the next 2 years.

Cllr L Belgrove suggested getting someone else to repair the lighting at the bus shelter as it has not been repaired quickly enough. The clerk has asked Viking for a quote.

The decrease of the LCTSS grant was discussed, it was reduced by over 50% for 2019/20, will it be gone by 2020/21? The RFO is to check.

The need for a 5-year strategy was raised. It was discussed that a working party could be put together to meet and discuss this. Cllrs L Belgrove, Osborne and Wiggins are to initiate it and take their discussion to full council to see who else is interested. The aim is to do this before May.

5. **Budget for 2019/20**

To discuss and agree a budget for 2019/20 to recommend to the PC for approval.

Mrs Baxter was thanked for putting the draft budget worksheet together. Cllr Osborne requested a separate table for the Pavilion. Cllr Wiggins is to look through the prior year files to review income and expenditure for the Pavilion.

Signature.....

Date.....

The committee reviewed the budget with the following comments:
The PCSO costs have not increased
There may be training costs for staff along with the impact of overtime and potential pay review increases.
Other expenses were included for the neighbourhood plan, these are to be mostly offset by a grant received in the current year.
The insurance renewal is due in June 2019. Alternative providers include BHIB which has taken over from Aon, and Community Action Suffolk (CAS).
The replacing of the Pavilion heating system was discussed and commented that this could be part the 5-year plan and be an eco-friendly option.
Spaces and safety hatchings need to be marked out on the car park to ensure emergency vehicles have access through. The Village Hall committee has agreed to pay for this.
The CCTV group needs to meet. Cllr L Belgrove will propose interior CCTV for the safety of users and crime prevention. It will only be viewed if there is an incident.
The clearing of plot 1 of the allotments will be in the region of £60-£100. The new allotments will have no rent but will have water rates.
There was a discussion around the subscription rates for EALC. They are there to support councillors, the clerk's and RFO support should be SLCC. Every call is confidential. Some would like EALC responses to be more specific. If we didn't have EALC advice and used a lawyer the costs would be higher.
Budgeting for specific reserves was discussed.
The grant for the handyman will cover his wages for 3 years. He will need equipment for the role. The working party will report back on this.
After changes the budgeted expenditure for 2019/20 is £78,402.29.

6. Precept for 2019/20

To discuss and agree a recommendation to the PC for the 2019/20 precept request.
It was resolved to recommend to the council that the total precept request remains the same as for 2018/19 at £77,114. Proposed: Cllr F Belgrove, Seconded: Cllr Wiggins, all in favour.
Because of the decrease in the LCTSS grant portion of the funding the taxpayers' council tax will increase.

7. Meeting closes

The meeting closed at 10.45am.

Minuted by Angela Baxter – RFO & Assistant Clerk
Contact rfoapcessex@outlook.com