

Minutes of a Meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held at the Eco Hub, Stocks Lane, Gamlingay on Tuesday 26th November 2019 at 7.30pm

Present: Chair P Webb, Councillors S Martin, J Newman and J Wright. Clerks L Bacon and K Rayner

1. Resolved to receive apologies for absence from S Jones and C Smith.
2. To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda. None.
- 2.1 To receive written requests for dispensations for disc losable pecuniary interests (if any)
- 2.2 To grant any requests for dispensations as appropriate.
3. Resolved to approve and sign the Minutes of the F&GP meeting held 22nd October 2019 and to note the Full Council minutes of 12th November 2019 and to consider any matters arising. 63. Bench and path now installed. 68. Haven power now taken over streetlight energy, estimated cost £1897 per annum.
4. To receive any representations from Members of the Public and Press relating to items of business on this agenda during a ten-minute Open Forum. None.
5. Finance:
 - i. To consider draft budget and resolve recommendation to full council on precept level 2020 -21 after consideration and resolution on the following;
 1. Action Plan 2020-21. This includes items that have been raised during Parish Council meetings during the previous 12 months and put forward as possible future projects, if funding is available. The Action Plan is subject to change depending on resolutions made on levels of precept, reserves and availability of other funding such as Section 106 or grants.
 2. Reserves policy. Noted recommendations on levels of general and allocated reserve – approval will be subject to resolution on overall budget.
 3. S106 update. Noted expected S106 funds cannot be included for budget purposes at this stage as receipt dates are variable.
 4. Funding requests. Noted no written request from GCC Ltd, although Treasurer had estimated deficit to be £2-£3k at last PCLC meeting and hoped this would reduce to nil. No request received from Gazette. JN will check with Treasurer if this is still required. Latest accounts will be required with application. PC does not need to purchase a page per issue – its submissions are included anyway. Should the Gazette require additional funds for a specific item, it could make a grant application. Forward Gamlingay – increased request noted. JW and SM – youth work is very valuable and should continue to be supported. JW declared a non pecuniary interest as her son attends youth café. Resolved – to request more detail from FG about £500 sum included for “materials” – could this potentially be sourced elsewhere?
 5. Income charges review. Resolved to approve – no increase for 5th year for St Mary’s cemetery and for 3rd year on all other charges. SM - queried cemetery income levels. Clerk LB explained that it is difficult to estimate, but that income may reach expected levels by the end of the year. Stocks Lane cemetery is more expensive to maintain as there is more strimming required around graves – St Mary’s cemetery was deliberately planned to be more low maintenance. Noted that Rainbow Pre School are still operating breakfast club on a very reduced trial rate. Resolved not to increase this or standard rental rates at present. JW –

wording of future S106 funds allocation towards Old Methodist Chapel for pre school provision will need to be carefully considered.

6. Estimated tax base adjustments. Noted slight increase in number of households.
7. Draft Budget 2020-21. Clerk LB provided an updated draft including reduction in employer contribution percentage from 36.8% to 21.4% following recent pension scheme valuation. This reduces expenditure by £10k. SM suggested £8k could be reallocated to increase the contingency. Another option would be to use the £10k to create a new allocated reserve for a future project – for example towards acquiring additional recreation space. Resolved – full council to consider re allocating funds released from pension budget line (£10k) elsewhere in budget.

Privately Funded Highways Initiative scheme (reprofiling Church Lane junction) - £10 600 included as 1/3 of cost. PW felt the Parish Council should not be passing this cost on to residents in the precept. Highway improvements are the responsibility of the Highways Authority – Cambridgeshire County Council. JW – these improvements will not get done otherwise as County does not have the budget for works it does not consider to be high priority, such as the junction reprofiling and the installation of double yellow lines on Stocks Lane/Station Rd junction. Resolved – to submit query to Merton College – can the remaining S106 community transport allocation from Station Rd development (Poppyfields) be used to fund the PFI scheme and potentially double yellow lines as outlined above and installation of additional lighting (solar studs) on the cycle path/footway. Resolved - if these items can be funded from S106, then it is recommended that they be considered by full council for inclusion in the 20-21 budget alongside other options previously identified for using this S106 funding such as delivering a section of cycleway. Sustrans could be approached to find out what would be deliverable with the funding available.

Subscriptions – resolved to approve inclusion of increased sum (£350 more) for office expenses to include membership of CPALC next year.

8. Impact on band D council tax. Noted resultant increase on precept with changes outlined is 1.69%, or 1.54% per household (more households due to tax base adjustments). Around £2 more per household per year.

Recommendation to full council - 1.54% is an acceptable level of increase, detail of reallocation of savings from pension budget line to be resolved. Inclusion of PFI to be discussed. Allocation of S106 community transport funding to be resolved, pending response from Merton College.

- ii. **Resolved** to approve payments 265 -279
- iii. Bank reconciliation Oct 2019 – resolved to approve
6. **Other matters for resolution:** Leave requests. Resolved to approve.
7. Items for the next meeting
8. Dates of next meetings: -Planning and Full Council Tuesday 10th December 2019, F and GP 22nd January 2019. Noted error – meetings are actually 14th/28th.
9. Record Closure time of meeting. 20.25

Signed.....



Dated.....