



Agreed at Finance Committee meeting on 19th January 2021 – to be signed at the first face to face meeting of the Finance Committee

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2020 HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM COMMENCING AT 7.30PM

56/20 PRESENT

Cllrs Adam (in the chair), Boswell, Jones, Mannington, Stevens and Tippen were present. Cllr Turner and the Clerk were also in attendance.

57/20 APOLOGIES

Cllrs Barker and Robertson had given their apologies although not an appointed Member of the Finance Committee.

58/20 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 3rd November were agreed as a true record. They would be signed at the next face to face meeting.

59/20 PARISH COUNCILLOR DETAILS

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Boswell declared an interest in Southons Field as neighbouring resident.

Cllrs Stevens and Tippen declared an interest as Trustees of Marden Memorial Hall. (The Clerk was also a Trustee).

Changes to Register of Interests

There were no changes to Cllrs Register of Interests

Granting of Dispensation

There were no requests for dispensation of any item on this agenda

60/20 IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS INVOLVING PUBLIC SPEAKING

No members of the public were in attendance

61/20 2020/21 FINANCE YEAR

The Clerk had circulated an updated budget to the end of October 2020. No questions were raised and Cllrs agreed the content.

62/20 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Cllrs discussed the balance of the Santander account (Capital): £47,077.62 (as at 20th July 2020). The Clerk reported that the next quarter's interest was due this month and £5,414.92 was due to be transferred to Revenue for capital expenditure over 2019/20 and 2020/21.

Cllrs discussed the remainder of the Public Works Loan from the Memorial Hall roof payment. It was agreed that all work to bring the Hall up to DDE/Health and Safety Regulations had been completed and Cllr Tippen reported that no other urgent work was required to necessitate ringfencing this money to the Hall. Cllr Tippen proposed, and all Cllrs agreed, that the remaining £9,834.65 would be put into community projects.

Taking all this into account the capital figure as at 30th November was: £41,662.70.

The following projects were discussed and funding ring fenced for future years:

Station Enhancement (Fencing): £5,000

New ride on mower: £10,000

Outdoor equipment: £1,000

Office equipment: £1,500

The Clerk had reported at the last meeting, and item discussed at the Full Council meeting on 24th November that the Parish Council vehicle lease ended in July 2021. There were two options available: (1) To pay the balloon payment of £3,785.06 and sell the vehicle (2.5% of the sale price would need to be paid to the leasing company) or (2) To pay the balloon figure but retain the vehicle. After discussion it was proposed, and agreed, that option (2) would be the most favourable. Therefore £3,785.06 was ringfenced for 2021 capital expenditure. Cllr Tippen proposed, and all Cllrs agreed, that the remainder would be split between Community Infrastructure Spend Plan projects (50%) and Highways Improvement Plan projects (50%).

Marden Council Vehicle

Discussed above

Caretaker – Purchase of a new leaf blower

Cllrs agreed the purchase of this piece of equipment out of capital expenditure which had been ring fenced above.

63/20 FINANCIAL PLAN

Discussed under item 62/20.

64/20 2021/22 BUDGET

The draft budget discussed at the meeting on 3rd November was discussed in more detail. Cllr Adam reported that following the barrister's meeting that the budget be amended to £2,000 for 2020/21 and £3,000 2021/22. A confirmed figure had not been received and the Clerk was asked to chase before this was finalised.

Several other budget expenditure items for 2021/22 were amended including salaries, NIC payments, vehicle leasing, vehicle servicing/maintenance. At the last Full Council meeting it was agreed not to increase burial, playscheme or open space fees. Therefore, the budget for 2021/22 was amended to reflect this. It was also unsure whether the Parish Services Scheme grant from MBC would be increased and it was agreed to budget for the same as 2020/21. In regard to new Christmas lighting and street furniture budget it was proposed, and agreed, that £9,000 be transferred from this year's revenue to capital (£6,000 for lighting and £3,000 for street furniture).

Following all the above amendments being made Cllrs agreed the second draft. It was hoped that the tax base would be known by Christmas to allow Cllrs to discuss and approve the budget and Precept next month.

The Clerk and Cllr Adam would align the figures on both the budget for 2020/21 and 2021/22 and the 4-year plan and circulate to Cllrs.

65/20 OTHER FINANCIAL ISSUES

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

Cllrs agreed that any CIL money that was received would be spent on community or highways projects and that it would be transferred directly to Santander (capital) account.

Other

Cllr Boswell asked Cllrs to consider projects for this financial year which the Parish Council apply to County Cllr Hotson for grant funding. Cllrs agreed to defer and discuss at the next Full Council meeting as any application had to be submitted before the end of December.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm

Date:

Signed:

Cllr Richard Adam

Chairman, Finance Committee

Marden Parish Council

Parish Office

Goudhurst Road

Marden
01622 832305
07376 287981
clerk@mardenkent-pc.gov.uk
www.mardenkent-pc.gov.uk