
Minutes of Finance Committee meeting held on Monday 18th November 2019 at 12 noon at the Cleobury Country Centre, Love Lane, Cleobury Mortimer.

Present:

Cllr Debbie Brown, Cllr Geoff Hainsworth, Cllr Paul French and Cllr Jon Bodenham.
Finance Officer: Mrs D McBride

Chairman, Cllr Hainsworth welcomed everyone to the meeting.

11.00.19F Democratic 15 minutes Public Time

There were no members of public present.

11.01.19F Apologies for absence

There were no apologies.

**11.02.19F Declaration of interests:
Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

Members are reminded that they must not participate in the discussion or voting on any matter in which they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate, whether or not the interest is entered in the register of member's interests maintained by the Monitoring Officer.

There were no interests declared.

11.03.19F To consider the Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on Monday 16th September 2019

The Minutes from the Finance Committee meeting held on Monday 16th September 2019 were approved and signed.

11.04.19F To review the 2019/20 accounts year-to-date

- Receipts and Payments were reviewed; year-to-date against budget and forecast for year-end. It is difficult to forecast for Place Plan/CIL money as our request for CIL for the Love Lane Play Area project has not been confirmed. Speed Management heading will cover Parking Enforcement especially for around the Primary School. Cleobury Economy will cover the Health Card. The quote for five additional CCTV cameras has been received. A grant of £5,324 from the Police & Crime Commissioner will cover this but the additional cost of £750 to change the street lights will come from the CCTV reserves.
- Bank Reconciliation was reviewed.
- Ear-marked reserves were reviewed. It was agreed that the War Graves money can also cover the repair to the Boer War Memorial at the Market Hall.
- Petty Cash was reviewed and confirmed as being correct.

11.05.19F To review progress of Projects

The Committee went through the Projects List. Updated copy of Projects List attached with these Minutes.

The quote for replacing the final six concrete columns has come in at £7,600, with £6040.29 earmarked for this so balance (£1,559.71) to come from general reserve. The recent anti-social behaviour at Cleobury Park highlighted the need for the trees to be trimmed back to enable better visibility of the rotating CCTV camera.

11.06.19F To consider items for draft Budget for 2020/21

The first draft of the budget for the next three years was reviewed. Small amendments made for inflationary increases as well as allowing for additional parking enforcement and increases in insurance due to more assets (Park equipment). DM will write to all sports clubs who use the Playing Field to ensure they keep their peppercorn rent payments up-to-date which helps with maintenance of the Playing Field. Cemetery Fees will be revised for April 2020. £5,000 will be allocated for the project to supply water for the Wells. The refurbishment of the High Street bus shelters has slipped – quotes to be sourced for approval at the December Council meeting. If more than current budgeted amount for Bus Shelters, use general reserve to cover any shortfall. Streetlight upgrades will be completed this year but lack of an accurate up-to-date inventory is delaying the budget planning for replacing the lights to LED and reviewing the electricity supply contract. Funding will be allocated for tourism development over the next two

years. Money has not been received from the Festival ie proportion of takings from traders. Procedures to be reviewed by the Festival Committee. There will be an increase to the Grant pot to help community groups. We may need to allocate some money towards the Library in the future.

11.07.19F To consider Shropshire Council's proposals for future of Library

It has been confirmed that the lease is not part of any proposals to the Town Council, only the management cost of £9,000 per annum. Unitary Cllr Gwilym Butler has now stated that we are being asked to not only support the Library but also Cleobury Country as they will likely lose staff if the Town Council does not pay for the Library management. As this has added a new dimension to Shropshire Council's proposals it was agreed that we need to meet with Cleobury Country and ask what their three-year/forward planning is for their business. We need to understand how Cleobury Country will develop their business to ensure the security of the Library going forward but we also would require them to work with us more if we support them ie for developing Tourism. We will undertake a public consultation covering all proposals for the Library, before 31st March. DM will ask if Shropshire Council will assist with the consultation otherwise, we can do it ourselves by leaflet and Survey Monkey. If the public wish the Town Council to financially support the Library and Cleobury Country Centre a provision will be put in the budget for future years.

11.08.19F To consider proposals for refurbishment and maintenance of the Wells

There has been some difficulty in obtaining three quotes for the maintenance work required at the Wells despite great efforts. As the issues are becoming a safety concern it was agreed that the work would be allocated to the current approved contractor who is repointing the stone work to also repair the steps and side walls. There is £2,175.46 in reserves for the Wells, so balance (£615) to come from the general reserve as part of our asset maintenance. PF will look into safety work required by neighbouring properties and seek expert advice to re-supply water to the Wells.

11.09.19F To consider proposals for CIL projects

GH felt that because of additional CIL raised from the many Mawley Hall developments the Town Council needs to come up with more projects for this money. The Town Council's Strategy meeting on Monday 9th December will consider such Place Plan projects as part of the three-year review. It may be that the Tenbury Road junction improvements can be explored further, also, the Primary School's capacity needs looking at again. It would be helpful to have the CIL 'rules' displayed at this meeting to aid discussion. Projects proposed can then be consulted with the public.

11.10.19F To receive Future Agenda items

Library update and review of draft budget for 2020/21 at the next meeting.

Other items raised:

GH informed the meeting of CMFA's 30th anniversary coming up next year. Discussions are underway for commemorative events.

GH has asked the Clerk for an update from Severn Trent on whether or not they will be re-instating the road to Ditton Mill as residents have heard from Unitary Cllr Madge Shineton that Shropshire Council will be repairing the road, not Severn Trent. This needs investigating further as it would be expected that Severn Trent would make good any damage to the road.

11.11.19F To set date of next Finance Committee meeting

The next Finance Committee meeting will be on Monday 16th December 2019 at 10am at the Cleobury Country Centre, Cleobury Mortimer.

Meeting closed at 12.34pm.

Signed Chairman: G Hainsworth

Date: 16th December 2019