
Minutes of Finance Committee meeting held on Monday 23rd November 2020 at 7pm using the Zoom on-line facility commencing at 7pm.

Present:

Cllr Geoff Hainsworth, Cllr Debbie Brown, Cllr Paul French and Cllr Guy James.

Finance Officer: Mrs D McBride

Chairman, Cllr Hainsworth welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Cllr Hainsworth confirmed that since the last meeting he has checked and confirmed there are two concrete street light columns in the Furlongs and New Road which are to be removed.

11.08.20F To consider draft budget for 2021/22 and items for Business Plan.

The Finance Committee went through each item in the proposed Draft Budget for 2021-22. A few minor adjustments were made but the main considerations are that a number of projects have been budgeted for the current year (under the Cleobury Economy heading) and are not going ahead as planned as well as other budget headings where the ear-marked reserves are high so approximately £30,000 will be carried forward in reserves for next year.

- The project to improve the Wells to boost Tourism needs pushing on as grant reports are required.
- It was agreed to allocate a further £1,000 into Salaries to cover additional seasonal work required with maintenance of floral displays.
- Proposals to evaluate installing a water supply to the fountain/trough on the High Street and to the Love Lane Play Area will be added to the Action Log.
- Quotes to replace the Perspex on the High Street bus shelters will need reviewing due to the time elapsed on this project.
- Street light electricity contract is currently with Npower but no bills have been received recently. An accurate inventory from Prysmian is still outstanding.
- The Neighbourhood Plan budget needs urgently updating in order to ensure adequate funds are in place to cover the on-going work and likely referendum next year. DM is now working with the new NDP Chair to finalise the previous external grant, update the budget and apply for further external funding.

As the tax base figures are not normally released until late December, we cannot calculate the precept costs per household until that time. As the reserves are very healthy it was agreed that there is no justification to put the Precept up and to keep the Band D figure under £100 per household.

It was agreed to update the draft budget at the next meeting once the NDP budget and Tax Base figures have been confirmed and put the proposals to Council at their meeting on 1st February 2021.

11.09.20F To receive Future Agenda items

It was agreed that following advice from Shropshire Council DM will write to the partners of 'In The Classroom' with proposals and business support advice which is available.

11.10.20F To set date of next Finance Committee meeting

The next Finance Committee meeting will be on Monday 18th January 2021 at 7pm by Zoom.

Meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Signed Chairman: G Hainsworth

Date: 18th January 2021