

Minutes of Finance Committee meeting held on Monday 18th January 2021

Present: Councillor, St J Greenhough, (Chair)
Councillors, Mrs. N Griffiths, K McKay, Mrs. L Willis, Mrs. F Craig-Wilson, Mrs P Mulholland, J Graham, Mrs. N Whalley. T Threlfall, Mrs. C Thomas and Mrs. D Plant

1) To Accept Apologies for absence.

Councillor T Fiddler (Another meeting)
It was resolved that the reason for absence should be accepted.

2) To record Declaration of interest from members in any item to be discussed.

All Councillors, as Landlords of Bush Lane Allotments, declared an interest in item 6 – Capital Expenditure. Councillors Mrs. L Willis and Mrs. N Whalley, tenants of an Allotment on Bush Lane, declared a prejudicial interest in Item 6

3) To review the Salaries of the Administration staff.

The Clerk reported that NALC had published new agreed pay scales for all Local Government staff in August 2020 backdated to April 2020. This included a 2.5% increase in Salaries.

Last year the Council agreed a 2% increase for the Administration staff. The Clerk suggested that the Salaries should be increased by 0.5% from April 2021 to bring them in line with the new Pay Scales

It was resolved to increase the salaries of the Administration staff by 0.5% with effect from April 2021.

4) To Review the Contracts for the Open Spaces Contractors.

The Clerk reported that the Government guidelines were that there should be no increase in payments these year.

It was resolved that there would be no increase in the Contractors payments for the period April 2021 to March 2022.

5) To agree the Precept Budget, including Open Spaces expenditure, for 2020-21

It was resolved to set a Precept budget of £105,602 (0% increase) for the 2021-22 Precept budget.

The Clerk reported that the Xmas tree had been donated this year. The Council normally budgets £300 for the purchase of the Tree. Unfortunately, the Contractor that cut down the tree charged the Council £150 for his services. It was suggested that the remainder of the budget should be donated to the Fylde Hospice in memory of the donor's parents

It was resolved to donate £150, from this year's budget, to the Fylde Hospice in memory of the donor's parents.

The Clerk agreed to send a Thankyou letter to the donor.

6) To consider any Capital expenditure proposals for 2021-2022

It was suggested that the Bush lane Allotments should be drained.

It was reported that the new drains would take 12 months to work properly.

It was agreed that the drainage of the allotments should be reviewed in 12 months' time.

It was suggested that electricity should be installed in to the allotment holders buildings. The running costs would be met by the tenants.

It was agreed that these sort of requests should come through the Allotment Holders Association.

(After the meeting is was noted that in 2014 it was written in to the tenants agreement that any installation of Electricity would be at the tenants own cost)

7) To consider appointing Mrs. Taylor as the Internal Auditor for the 2020/21 Accounts

It was resolved that Mrs. Taylor should be appointed the Internal Auditor for 2020/21 accounts

Signed.....St. J Greenhough, Chairman.....

Date.....01/02/2021.....