



Finance Committee Meeting Minutes for Tuesday 11 January 2022

FC 40 / 21 Attendance and apologies

Attendance: Cllr Booth (Chairman), Cllr Buxton, Cllr Evans, Cllr Pike

In Attendance: R Davies (Clerk and RFO)

There were no members of the public present.

There were no declarations of interest for items on the agenda.

FC 41 / 21 To review minutes of the meeting 30 November 2021

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting 30 November 2021 were approved.

Matters Arising:

The committee agreed to Cllr Pike's request to ask Waitrose if they would consider putting a defibrillator outside their store.

FC 42 / 21 Public Adjournment

There were no members of the public present, therefore the Chairman proceeded with the meeting.

FC 43 / 21 Spending Requests

The committee reviewed the request for the purchase of an Honours Board to record the winners of the William Pack Cup for the Allotments.

RESOLVED: That the funds were available for this proposal through S106 Allotments and therefore the proposal could now move to council 18 January 2022.

The committee reviewed a quotation from the Flag Consultancy, who maintain the flagpole at the Recreation Ground, to re-site and reinstate the base to which the flagpole is fixed, due to safety concerns. The expenditure of £956 was approved to proceed as this was provided for in the current budget provision for Equipment Maintenance.

The committee reviewed the CIL Stakeholder grant application from Charters School as referred from the Oversight and Strategy Committee and noted that the 10% Stakeholder fund as approved at the council on the 4 May 2021 (item 11/21) was £14,081.73 for the council year 2021-2022.

RESOLVED: That the CIL funding request be forwarded to council with confirmation that £14,081.73 is available and a suggestion to fund £12,600 (half the funding requested) on the condition that the remaining funding should be confirmed by the applicant prior to any monies being paid out.

RESOLVED: That the CIL Stakeholder application process be referred back to the Oversight and Strategy Committee to consider whether applicants should be required to demonstrate value for money.

FC 44 / 21 Council Budget Reports

The committee reviewed the Council Detail Report to the end of December 2021 and there were no items of concern identified.

FC 45 / 21 To consider the Council Budget and associated documents for 2022 2023

Prior to consideration of the budget Cllr Buxton put the following question to the committee

Bearing in the mind the Nolan Principles, was anyone who sits on the Finance Committee involved in any way at all (however small or large) with calling for an election to fill the vacant position at Sunningdale Parish Council?

I ask because this Committee has the best and deepest understanding of how the Council's finances work and how we will have to find extra money this year. We will now need to increase the budget, adding money to EMRs for future elections, despite the Monitoring Officer's recent recommendation for co-option as the best way forward for Parishes to fill vacancies between main election cycles. Our past experience shows we have an excellent record of bringing new and engaged residents to fill such vacancies by co-options such as Julia Chester, David Biggs, Peter Grover, Martin Penny, Michael Burn, Anne Brindle, and Yvonne Jacklin to name but a few.

The following committee members confirmed they were not involved: Cllr Booth, Cllr Evans and Cllr Buxton

The following committee member did not confirm either way: Cllr Pike

The committee reviewed the budget and proposed precept in the light of resolutions of the council on 14 December 2021 and the recent call for a by-election.

Cllr Booth reported on changes to the budget subsequent to the presentation he made to council on 14 December 2021:

1. The precept as presented to the council on 14 December 2021 was £210,547.
2. The resolution of council to recruit a Meetings Administrator and reduce the hours of the Clerk represented a net saving of £1,423.
3. The legal support contract increased the legal and professional fees budget allocation by £2,600
4. The cost of the by-election in the current financial year could be met from the forecast excess of income over expenditure, however consequent upon the removal of the anticipated transfer to EMR of £2,000 of unused funds in the budget year 2021-2022, an increase of £1,500 in the Elections budget for 2022-2023 was proposed.
5. The resulting precept after these changes would be £213,224, an increase of £18,921 over 2021-22. The expenditure of £12,250 on the library, £6,000 for the Jubilee and the £1,000 increase in the budget for the Christmas event more than accounted for this.

The committee also reviewed and discussed at length the possible use of CIL to fund the Library staff costs. The RFO / Clerk reported on advice she had received from NALC, RBWM (the council's monitoring authority), SLCC and the forum of SLCC's clerks. The committee also considered correspondence between Cllr Pike and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities. It was noted that such additional expenditure was supported in a recent residents' survey.

RESOLVED: That the committee propose to council that the budget and precept for 2022-2023 should include the £12,250 cost of the salaries of the librarians to continue to operate the library provision in Sunningdale.

For: Cllr Booth, Cllr Buxton and Cllr Evans

Against: Cllr Pike

[NOTE: At the time of writing these minutes the Clerk is still to gain confirmation of whether the request made by Cllr Pike to include her reasons for voting against are included in the minutes. Should this be permissible then these reasons will be added prior to the minutes being approved by the committee.]

RESOLVED: That the committee propose to council that it retains the budget level of funding for elections at £2,000 per annum, as included in the budget.

Unanimous.

RESOLVED: That the committee approve the final budget including all council resolutions from the meeting 14 December 2021 and financial impacts since the draft budget was presented and propose this budget to council for approval on the 18 January 2022.

For: Cllr Booth, Cllr Buxton and Cllr Evans

Against: Cllr Pike

RESOLVED: That the committee propose to council the EMR movements as included in the budget document.

Unanimous.

RESOLVED: That the committee propose to council a precept of £213,224 for 2022-2023 (£61.29 per band D equivalent).

For: Cllr Booth, Cllr Buxton and Cllr Evans

Against: Cllr Pike

Cllr Buxton requested that thanks to Cllr Booth be noted in the minutes for the excellent budget presentation at the council meeting on 14 December 2021 and said that this was echoed by the member of the public present that evening. Cllr Booth said that it had been a joint exercise with the RFO/Clerk.

FC 46 / 21 Dates of the upcoming meetings

The next scheduled meeting date is 8 March 2022 at 1:30pm.

The meeting closed at 12:45 pm.