

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held at 7.30 on Thursday, 19th November 2009. Councillors Baxter, Pelling, Shinkins, Stevens and Wallis attended with the Clerk Mrs S Kostyrka

19/09 To receive apologies for absence.

Cllr Baxter left the meeting at 8.25pm

20/09 To receive declarations of interest, if any.

None

21/08 To adopt the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 8th October 2009

The minutes were signed by the Chairman

22/09 To receive the report of progress in relation to matters arising from these Minutes not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.

The Clerk had investigated better investment opportunities and had approached RBS, HSBC, Alliance & Leicester, Norwich & Peterborough and had also spoken to Barclays. As the only other bank offering a Community Account was offering the same terms and conditions, it was decided to continue to monitor the situation until the financial climate improved, and better opportunities were available. This would be an agenda item for the next meeting. It was confirmed that the Assistant Clerk would be starting work on 18th January 2010 and the Clerk had taken up references.

23/09 To consider the recommendations agreed by Council on 29.10.09 for the 2010-11 budgets in preparation to report the final recommendations at Council on 26.11.09.

In accordance with the Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations the committee reviewed the budget for the current year in order to produce a realistic, accurate and consistent budget for 2010-11. It also ensured that the budget requests of each committee had been considered. It was noted that £50,000 had been spent in rolled over monies this year to complete projects, so the reserves to offset against the precept were very low. To achieve all the suggested projects, a precept of nearly £143,000.00 would have to be requested. The committee therefore looked at monies unspent and carried over prior to reducing expenditure to achieve a more realistic figure nearer to the projection of £87,000.

It is therefore recommended that:

Recruitment is reduced by £500

Painting of the village sign to be deferred saving £200

Cemetery budget to be reduced by £1000 to £3000

The skate park project will not go ahead, saving £11,750

The Car Club will not go ahead, but a budget of £500 was allocated for further work and feasibility

The £10000 donation for a PCSO will cease

The community skip will only be available on the first and last Saturday in the month, saving £2135

A reduction of £500 to £500 will be made for the Manor Court planting scheme

As the United Charities are now working with the CAB a contribution of £1000 will not be made

Insurance claims excess will be reduced from £2000 to £600

Thacker's Way Open Space will be deferred pending consultation with the land owners and a project proposal

The Communication Plan will be reduced to £700, which includes the Telephone Information Kiosk

The suggested budget for 2010-11 is therefore £93,144.00

024/10 Date of next meeting.

Cllr Pelling and the Clerk to meet to discuss estimates when figures have been reworked prior to Council on 26th November.

Meetings for 2010:

Thursday 15th April

Thursday 15th July

Thursday 18th November