



DEEPI NG ST JAMES PARISH COUNCIL

The Institute, 38 Church Street, Deeping St James, Peterborough PE6 8HD
E-mail: clerk.dsipc@btconnect.com Tel: 01778 343266 www.dsipc.co.uk

Parish Clerk: Julie Fortnum

Minutes of the **Finance and General Purposes Committee** meeting held on Thursday 23 November 2017 at 7.45pm in the Meeting Room at The Institute.

Present: Councillors Barber, Blessett, Bowell, J.Stevens and Ward. The minutes were taken by the Parish Clerk.

24.18 To receive apologies absence.

Apologies were received from Councillors Gilbert and Shinkins and accepted by the committee.

25.18 To receive any declarations of interest.

None declared.

26.18 To adopt the minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 19 October 2017.

Agreed and signed

Councillor Barber provided the following update on items arising from the minutes that were not included in this agenda:

1. A date for the Clerk, Assistant Clerk and Councillor Barber to attend web training at Lincolnshire County Council had been agreed – Thursday 7 December 2017.

The new website was in the process of being built and could be viewed at parishes.lincolnshire.gov.uk/DeepingStJames/

2. The recent rotation of the speed indicator devices had confirmed that the battery on the original device was not lasting very long. Whilst the planning and transport committee had agreed to precept for a replacement battery in 2018/19 as there were finances available in the current year's budget Councillor Barber proposed that a replacement should be bought as soon as possible. All agreed.

27.18 To consider including finances for the following in the 2018/19 budget/precept calculations

1. The purchase and installation of a street light at the junction of Linchfield Road and Towngate East – Councillor Barber proposed that funding for installation of a street at this location is included in the 2018/19 budget. This is a very busy junction which is terribly dark in the evenings due mainly to the high hedge on the right and a house in front, so no artificial light is getting through. Each year the Community Payback team clear all the vegetation from the roadside to allow motorist's to see along Towngate East. With the knowledge that there is a new development proposed on the DSJ United Charities land on Linchfield Road, there will be even more traffic along that road. It was agreed to include £1000 in the budget for this project and the Clerk was requested to contact LCC Highways regarding permissions.

2. Enclosing the MUGA with metal fencing – Councillor Ward introduced this item explaining the solution of cricket netting attached to the School fencing - to reduce the likelihood of footballs going over the school fence into the field which had led to 3 incidences of damage to the fencing (costing £200 per time to repair) to retrieve them - had proved impractical so alternative solutions were being investigated. One was to 'cage' the MUGA; a cost had been obtained for this of £15000 which was thought to be excessive. After discussion it was agreed that as there was still funding available within this year's budget for this work further quotes should be obtained with the intention of completing the work by the end of the financial year.

3. The installation of floodlights and/or CCTV at Woody Heights skatepark – The Clerk advised that several of the park users whilst very impressed with the new facility had said that this was one of the very few parks without floodlights meaning its use was limited in the winter months. It had also been suggested that the presence of floodlights reduces anti-

social behaviour. It was agreed that a lot of expense had just been spent on this facility and floodlighting would be a further large expense which would not be considered now but not ruled out for the future.

4. The purchase and installation of a second picnic bench for Jubilee Park – Councillor J Stevens advised that after the relocation of the picnic table to Jubilee Park from Millennium Wood the volunteer group The Friends of Jubilee Park had requested another be purchased to enhance the area. It was agreed that although the suggestion would not be ruled out for the future funding for a further picnic bench would not be included in the budget for next year.

28.18 To receive a report on the Parish Council's income and expenditure actuals up to 25 October 2017.

Councillor Ward referred the committee to the reports prepared by the Clerk which were reviewed and it was agreed that everything was in order.

29.18 To agree budget estimates for 2018/19 and make a recommendation for consideration at Council on 30 November 2017.

Councillor Ward referred the committee to the budget estimates that he and the Clerk had prepared pointing out items where the budget needed to increase or decrease compared to the current year.

30.18 To agree the precept figure for 2018/19 for consideration at Council on 30 November 2017.

Taking into account the above considerations and the fact that the Parish Councils responsibilities were increasing as District and County Council reduce theirs it was agreed that a **RECOMMENDATION** to increase the precept by £3.92 on the average Band D charge increasing it to £51.14 per annum should be made.

31.18 To agree the date of the next meeting – 7.45pm Thursday 18 January 2018.