



Minutes of the meeting of Handforth Parish Council
Finance Committee held on Tuesday 13th November 2018 at
6:45pm, The Youth Centre, Old Road, Handforth.

Present: Cllr Burgess
Cllr Samson
Cllr Smith (Chair of the Finance Committee)
Cllr Sullivan
Cllr Thompson
Cllr Tolver

Also present Mr Comiskey Dawson - Parish Clerk.
Four members of the public.

18/28/1 To receive apologies for absence.

None.

18/28/2 To note Declarations of interest and requests for dispensation to discuss, or discuss and vote on a matter in which a Member or co-opted Member has a Disclosable Pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest (DPI).

Cllr Thompson declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 18/28/8 and made a request for dispensation to vote on the item, this was granted.

Cllr Tolver declared an interest in item 18/28/8 and informed members he would not vote on the item.

18/28/3 Open Forum- Comment and questions concerning items on this agenda may be put to the Council by the public during this period. Matters which, in the Chairman's view require debate and/or a discussion will be referred to the next Committee/Council meeting, as appropriate. The Public Forum is restricted to 15 minutes, unless the Chairman allows otherwise.

None.

Item 18/28/8 was brought forward on the agenda to allow representatives from the 1st Handforth Scouts group to leave after their item was debated in order to attend another meeting.

18/28/4

Recommendations for expenditure:

a) To retrospectively approve the following items:

None.

b) To consider any other recommendations/requests:

- To utilise funds from the unused SK9 Group budget line to donate £2,350.00 further to the 1st Handforth Scouts to refurbish the disabled toilets.
- To agree the spend of up to a maximum of £7,000.00 from the consultancy budget line in order to pay the parish council's consultants GVA if the CIL examination was reopened or further evidence on CIL was requested by the examiner.
- To agree an insurance premium adjustment payment of £168.00.

Cllr Thompson proposed, seconded by Cllr Sullivan to agree to the above recommendations / requests.

Resolved: Unanimously.

18/28/5

To receive a copy of the Interim audit report.

A copy of the internal audit report was circulated to all councillors – noted all follow up actions from previous years audits had been completed.

Cllr Sullivan proposed, seconded by Cllr Samson to accept the Interim audit report.

Resolved: Unanimously.

18/28/6

To make recommendation to full council with regards setting the financial year 19/20 budget.

The 19/20 financial year budget was discussed in depth by councillors, it was agreed that the Youth Activities budget lines: SK9, Friday Club and holiday club be combined into one line, rewritten as Youth Provision.

The ring-fencing of £30,000.00 towards Access for All at Handforth Railway station was discussed – noted that the internal auditor had asked which power the council

were using to potentially provide this. The clerk had written to the SLCC and they had confirmed that the council could use the General Power of Competence for this item and any potential contribution towards Access for All at Handforth railway station.

Cllr Sullivan proposed, seconded by Cllr Samson to recommend the 19/20 budget proposal for approval by full council.

Resolved: Unanimously.

18/28/7 To make recommendation to full council with regards setting the precept for financial year 19/20.

Cllr Thompson proposed, seconded by Cllr Tolver to recommend that the precept remains the same for financial year 19/20; at £85,000.00 for approval by full council.

Resolved: Unanimously.

18/28/8 To consider a grant application received from the 1st Handforth Scout Group totalling £1,000.00 towards refurbishment of the disabled toilet facilities, and make recommendations to full council.

Two representatives from the Handforth 1st Scout group attended the meeting; they initially made a brief presentation to the council indicating their desire to refurbish the disabled toilets at the Scout Hut to make them fit for purpose. They noted that not only were some of the Scout group themselves disabled but there were a number of other user groups at the scout hut that had requirement for disabled toilets. They noted that the scout hut was regularly well used and that the largest community bonfire in Handforth took place at the scout hut. Councillors discussed the quote for £3,350.00 which was generally felt to be good value for money, the representatives noted that the builder had worked for them in the past and was giving a generous rate. The amount covered the full refurbishment including ceilings, walls, floors and sanitary ware. The toilets had been flooded some years back and have been in need of this refurbishment for some time.

Cllr Samson enquired as to the zero VAT rating on the quote, noted that refurbishment work on a disabled toilet was zero VAT rated.

Cllr Thompson enquired as to whether the scout group was prepared to use some of their financial reserves; however the group felt that they could not use the reserves as these were necessary in case either their boiler broke down, or they had a problem with the pump used for their non-mains sewerage system.

Cllr Sullivan enquired as to whether they had been successful in obtaining any grant funding from the other sources indicated on their application form, the

representatives noted that they had not heard back from their other grant applications.

Cllr Sullivan enquired whether it would be feasible for the council to offer not only the £1,000.00 grant which had been requested, but to use £2,350.00 from the unspent youth Activities "SK9" budget as a donation to allow the group to fully complete their project.

The clerk noted that the council had the General Power of Competence and that if the council resolved to do this, they were perfectly entitled to.

Cllr Sullivan proposed, seconded by Cllr Samson to recommend to full council that the grant be approved in the sum of £1,000.00; and that the council utilise the unspent Youth Activities budget line "SK9" to donate a further £2,350.00 to the scout group to complete the disabled toilet refurbishment. (Further, the clerk would pay invoice directly to the supplier, and if the scout group was successful in obtaining grant awards from any of their other applications, the balance would be returned to the parish council – this was agreed by all HPC councillors as well as the representatives from the scout group).

Motion carried: Five in favour with one abstention.

18/28/9 Notices and Correspondence.

None.

The meeting closed at 7:23pm.

Ashley Comiskey Dawson
Clerk to Handforth Parish Council
13th November 2018