

COLWALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE held in the Jean Simon Room at Colwall Village Hall on Wednesday 26th April 2017 at 7.00pm

Present: Mrs G Rees – Chairman, J Beard, P Butler, N Carless, E Haynes, P Kendrick, J Stock, R Trafford-Roberts and the Clerk.

1. Apologies for absence.

None were received.

2. Declarations of interest.

Councillor Rees declared an interest in item 6(i) and left the room whilst this item was discussed and voted upon.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 22nd March 2017 were accepted and signed as a true record of the previous meeting.

4. 2016/17 Out-Turn Report.

The Chairman reported –

This has been another satisfactory year financially. There was an overall surplus of £9,831 against a budgeted deficit of £2,559.; a positive difference for the year of £12,390.

The most notable variations against budget were:-

- The Lengthsman's activities were under budget by £512.00 the budgeted extra work load was not necessary,

-NDP costs were £7,482 under budget, thanks to a grant to contribute towards the professional consultancy costs and some of the expenditure being deferred, to the forthcoming year, pending completion of the Plan ,

-General, Recreation area & Play area Village Amenities expense was underspent by £4,486; General Maintenance was underspent by £933, Footpath maintenance was under budget by £347, the Railway Garden expenditure was under budget by £360.00, there was very little Play Equipment Maintenance producing a saving over budget of £940, Village Amenities Special project was under budget by £736.

Offsetting this, grass cutting was over budget by £170 due to the addition of the football pitch as a new area to cut and the Nature Reserve expenditure was over budget by £211 after a new interpretation board (this had been funded by a donation of £1000 from Colwall PCC in the previous financial year.

-General Administration came in under budget by £1,300.

-There were no consultancy costs; saving £400.

-Insurance came in under budget by £207.

-Grants and Donations were £983 over budget, after a donation to the MH ANOB of £750 (which had not been budgeted for).

Neighbourhood Development Plan

The net cost of the NDP this year was £3,018 (against a budgeted £10,500) due to securing grant funding and some costs being deferred due to unforeseen delays in completion of the Plan.

Total net cost to date, £17,258 .

Reserves

At this meeting we review the allocated reserves. An additional £3,943 should be moved from General Reserves to the Parish Projects Fund to reimburse the net costs incurred this year and provide reserves to cover the projected gross NDP cost for 2017/18 of £9,000, and any other projects the Parish Council undertakes in 17/18.

I am recommending £250 should be transferred to the Legal Reserves to reimburse for the costs incurred regarding the surrender to the Post Office lease and reinstate the reserve at £6,000.

Councillors are reminded that the present precept contains £16,000 specifically for support of the Library. Library costs this year were £11,170. The balance of £4,830 has been added to the Library Fund. This fund holds the balance of underspent Library precept for future eventualities associated with the ongoing support of the Library. It now totals £14,617.

At the financial year's end, and after these adjustments, there will remain £50,126 in the General Reserve.

After discussion IT WAS RESOLVED that the Allocated Funds to commence the 2017/18 Financial Year should be as follows:

Parish Projects £10,424
 Play Area Equipment £17,810.
 Elections £9,460
 Legal £6,000
 Office Equipment £1,000
 Library Reserve £14,617

5. Review of the 17/18 Budget

The Chairman discussed the original 17/18 budget and reviewed Councillor J Stocks budget for the Neighbourhood Development Plan and

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Neighbourhood Development Plan budget be increased to £9,000 (pre any grants secured).

The only other amendments to the budget being, that the P3 grant be reduced to £1,500 (from £1,900) and Staff costs be increased by £1,447 to take into account the revised rates of pay for 17/18 and the pension contributions rate (which has now been confirmed).

6. Correspondence for Information.

i) Letter from the Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty – regarding a contribution for their work with the Parish in 2017/18.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Finance & General Purpose Committee recommend to Full Council that a donation of £750 be made for this period.

In addition, at the November 2017 Finance & General Purpose committee budgeting meeting, an annual contribution to the Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty this will be considered.

7. Date of next meeting.

The next meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee will be 15th November 2017.
 The meeting closed at 7.20 p.m.

Chairman.....

Date.....