

BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL

In the County of Warwickshire



Minutes the Finance and Strategy Committee held on Monday 16th January 2017 @ 7.30 pm at the Parish Council Meeting Room, Bramley Way B50 4QG

PRESENT:

Chairman: Cllr. Mrs Randell

Cllrs. Atkins, Ms Deacon, Fleming, Harvey, Hiscocks, Mrs Keeley, Knight, Pound and Mrs Taylor

In attendance: Elisabeth Uggerløse, Clerk and RFO to the Parish Council
Sandy Leppen, of DCK Beavers (Council's accountants)

Also present: 1 member of the public

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

- All members of the Council are respectfully reminded that in order to comply with the Code of Conduct adopted by the Parish Council on 30th July 2012, if any matter arises during the meeting in which they have declared a disclosable pecuniary interest (DPI) they should leave the room

There were none

- Written requests for Dispensations for DPI should be received by the Clerk no more than 24 hours prior to the meeting.
Dispensations will be granted as appropriate

There were non

3. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3RD DECEMBER 2015

Proposed by Cllr. Ms Deacon as being accurate and signed by the Chairman of the Committee.

RESOLVED: to approve the minutes which were signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

4. PUBLIC FORUM

No issues raised

5. TO CONSIDER THE BUDGET/PRECEPT

The Council had been sent

- **Budget Spreadsheet** – showing the 2016/17 expenditure and the proposed Budget for 2017/18
 - A question was raised regarding General Maintenance. The budgeted amount for 2016/17 was £10k but the expected expenditure for the end of the financial year was £19.9k. What was the reason for this? And why was the budgeted amount for 2017/18 still £10k.
Figures were not immediately available so it was **RESOLVED** the RFO would look into it and report at the next Parish Council Meeting
 - Another issue raised was the allocation for War Memorials – this was £1,320 and though nothing has been spent, the expected expenditure remained £1,320.
The RFO explained that, as the amount had been allocated, it would remain there until the end of the financial year.
 - Clarification was requested in respect of Village Improvements, in view of the new Strategic Working Groups
It was explained that this covered street furniture such as benches, bins etc. considered outside any strategic expenditure

- **Budget/Precept**

Two options had been prepared:

- Band D – 0% increase (£107.36) which would raise a Precept of £239,385.
- Band D – 2% increase (£109.51) which would raise a Precept of £243,996

The difference in the amount raised for the Precept would be £4,611. In view of the recommendation was for Council to approve a 0% increase.

The Chairman proposed Council consider this option and it was

unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve a Precept of £239,385.00, with a 0% increase in the rate payable, for the financial year 2017/18 and that this be recommended to Council for its approval at the Parish council meeting of 23rd January 2017.

- **Budget/Precept**

The RFO and DCK Beavers had gone through the budget line by line, and had calculated the expenditure for 2016/17 as shown on the options being proposed.

Council considered the options and unanimously **RESOLVED** to recommend the option where the unit cost remains unchanged delivering a Precept of £216,424 with the expected surplus being added to the Rolling Capital/Project Fund.

The meeting closed at approx. 7.55 pm