

# **BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL**

## **In the County of Warwickshire**



**Minutes the Finance and Strategy Committee held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2017 @ 7.30 pm at the Parish Council Meeting Room, Bramley Way B50 4QG**

**PRESENT:**

Chairman: Cllr. Mrs Randell

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

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

**1. APOLOGIES**

*Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Harvey*

**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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2017**

Proposed by Cllr. Mrs Keeley as being accurate

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

**4. PUBLIC FORUM**

*No members present*

**5. TO CONSIDER TRANSFERRING ALL EARMARKED RESERVES (EXCEPT THOSE BOUND BY 106 AGREEMENTS) TO THE CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND: LEAVING A MINIMUM OF 6 MONTHS NET REVENUE EXPENDITURE FOR GENERAL RESERVE**

Council agreed this would give it more flexibility and it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the transfer of all earmarked reserves to the Capital Project Fund allowing a minimum of 6 months net revenue expenditure for general reserve.

**6. TO CONSIDER**

- setting up an account with CCLA which will give a better interest return and allows daily transfer of funds to the current account if instructions sent **before** 11.00 am  
Councillors requested a little background on CCLA. Derek Kemp explained that it was an investment company set up to cater for charities, religious organizations and local authorities and, although no investment is entirely risk free, CCLA only invests in domestic funds and as an excellent record and offers a better return than a bank deposit account. **RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote, to open a CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund Account.
- nominating the Chairman of the Finance Committee and Clerk as the signatories of said account  
**RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote, to nominate the Chairman of the Finance Committee and the Clerk as signatories – either one to sign.

**7. TO CONSIDER THE BUDGET/PRECEPT**

The Council had been sent

- **Budget Spreadsheet** – showing the 2017/18 expenditure and three proposed Budgets for 2018/19
  - As required by Budget Estimate
  - Band D 0% increase
  - Band D 2% increase

The Chairman opened the discussion.

It was proposed that Council should consider keeping the 0% Band D increase for a fourth year – this would create good publicity for the Council.

Although it was acknowledged that this would be good publicity, a counter proposal was put forward for the Council to consider a 2% Band D increase bearing in mind this is well below the current rate of inflation, which is set to rise. Council is in the process of starting to implement its Strategic Plan, which will involve, potentially, large sums of money and it would be prudent for Council to ensure its Capital Project Fund remain healthy to enable it to meet these costs.

One example of a proposed cost for 2018/19 is the upgrade of all existing streetlights so that they can be devolved to Warwickshire County Council (WCC). WCC has advised that it would be able to carry out the upgrade for the current number of 113 in the next financial year at an approx. cost of £1300 per column i.e. £150k.

There is also the issue of meeting potential increase in staff wages as negotiations are taking place at a time when Government has eased the pressure to keep salaries unchanged.

Good publicity can still be created as the increase will enable Council to carry out strategic plans to make the village more vibrant and improve the Quality of life of its residents – and the increase envisaged is below that current rate of inflation.

The Chairman then asked for a vote for the counter proposal that the Band D rate be increased by 2% at which point the proposer to keep the Band D rate unchanged withdrew the motion.

**RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote, that the recommendation for full Council to consider would for a precept for the financial year of 2018/19 of £253,345.00 .

Communications and marketing WG to ensure good publicity.

The meeting closed at approx. 7.55 pm