

BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL

In the County of Warwickshire



Minutes the Finance and Strategy Committee held on Thursday 6th December 2018 @ 7.30 pm at the Parish Council Meeting Room, Bramley Way B50 4QG

PRESENT:

Chairman: Cllr. Mrs Randell

Cllrs. Atkins, Ms Deacon, Harvey, 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 Fleming

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 18th December 2017, if any matter arises during the meeting in which they have declared an Interest, which could be personal or prejudicial, they should declare so and 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 none

3. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18th DECEMBER 2017

Proposed by Cllr. Ms Deacon 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 THE BUDGET/PRECEPT FOR 2019/20

All documents had been circulated

Before considering the precept, the chairman enquired if there were any questions regarding the 2019/20 Budget

- **Street Lights:** it was noted that only £25,000 had been budgeted for whereas the Council was still considering replacing all the streetlights. The Clerk advised that the Budget reflects the decision already made by to replace a number of streetlights at a cost of £25k. When Council agrees the expenditure of replacing/upgrading the streetlights in Bidford on Avon, this will transferred from the Capital Projects budget – it will not change the bottom line.
- **Parks and Outside Areas** – clarification was requested regarding the increase in this item for 2019/20. This reflected the fact that that commuted sum to maintain Millers Bank, Broom, will be exhausted by April 2019 adding to the cost from the Budget and the increase in the rent for the Big Meadow lease.
- **Car parking income:** this summer had been exceptional and this was reflected in a good income from car parking fees. It was noted that the projected income remained as for this year, with no guarantee of a second good summer. The projected income remained the same based on the increase in the cost for car parking to £3.00

There being no further issues raised, the Chairman opened the discussion on the Precept for 2019/20.

3 budgets had been prepared

- Band D 0% increase
- Band D 1% increase
- Band D 2% increase

There followed a debate as to whether there should be a 0% increase, which would be good publicity, or increase it by 2%, which was below inflation rate, and would allow Council to take on more devolved services; improve the services it was

already offering and allow it to prepare for any potential Brexit consequences. Some believed this was not required and stated they preferred a 0% increase. The Chairman asked if there was a proposal and a motion was put forward that the precept be increased by 2% - below inflation rate.

A counter proposal to hold the Precept at 0% was put forward and it was requested it be a named vote.

The vote for the counterproposal of a 0% increase was first:

- Cllr Atkins in favour
- Cllr Knight in favour
- Cllr Pound Against
- Cllr Ms. Deacon Against
- Cllr Mrs Taylor Against
- Cllr Ms. Randell Against
- Cllr Hiscocks In favour
- Cllr Mrs Keeley Against
- Cllr Harvey Against

The motion failed by 3 votes in favour and 6 against

The Council then voted on the original proposal that it increase by 2% a follows:

- Cllr Harvey In favour
- Cllr Atkins Against
- Cllr Knight Against
- Cllr Pound In favour
- Cllr Ms Deacon In favour
- Cllr Mrs Taylor In favour
- Cllr Ms. Randell In favour
- Cllr Hiscocks Against
- Cllr Mrs Keeley In favour

The motion passed by 6 votes in favour and 3 against.

RESOLVED to set a precept of £272,165.00

The meeting closed at approx. 8.00 pm