

BLEADON PARISH COUNCIL

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DRAFT Minutes of the meeting of Bleadon Parish Council Finance and Personnel Committee held in the Coronation Hall Bleadon on Friday 9th November 2018 commencing at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs Baines, Hartree, Selway and Sheppard
Clerk: Marian Barber. One member of the public arrived at 7.04pm (at item 54.5).

F&P 54.1 To receive any apologies for non-attendance
None.

F&P 54.2 To receive any declarations of interest
None.

F&P 54.3 Public Participation – limited to 15 minutes in total.
No members of the public present.

F&P 54.4 To Approve the minutes of the last F&P meeting.
The minutes of 28th June 2018 were **APPROVED**.

F&P 54. To Review Reserves
It was noted that the current reserve is 88% of the proposed operating costs for next year. The recommendation is that a Parish Council should hold no more than 50% of its operating costs.

F&P 54.6 To Consider using Reserves for current year expenditure
Road Safety – some worries about proliferation of signs at certain road junctions. Acknowledged that these signs would be at other locations.
Allotments – agreed that improvements to these would encourage greater take-up.

Bleadon in Bloom – the proposal was welcomed and Cllr Hemingway was complimented in her success in engaging so many residents in activities to improve the environment of the village. Spend from reserves this year would be supported but a more detailed list of costings was required, as well as where trees would be planted and benches sited.

Dropped kerbs – it was considered that this was not an important item – the majority of drivers had no problem accessing the car park and responsibility for sensible driving lay with the driver.

A - It was **AGREED TO RECOMMEND** the following expenditure from Reserves:

Road Safety signs £1,650.

Allotments garden improvements £1,130.

Fire Doors in Coronation Hall (50% contribution) £1,635.

B - It was **AGREED TO RECOMMEND** that **Bleadon in Bloom** should be supported from Reserves **subject to** provision of a more detailed proposal for discussion at the 10th December council meeting.

C - It was **AGREED TO RECOMMEND** that no expenditure be made on dropped kerb realignment.

F&P 54.7 To Consider Projects for inclusion in the Budget for 2019/20
Councillors supported continued work on Bleadon in Bloom and Allotments, recommending small budgets.

Suggestions for Play Area included rubberised surfacing for the whole area (reducing costs from grass cutting and bark management) which would facilitate all uses. Also accessible equipment. User group being set up to discuss; GB Sport will provide a range of options. Clerk to register the Parish Council

with Entrust (if eligible) and investigate potential funding from Biffa, Lottery Awards for All, Playing Fields Association, etc. A budget for next year would be used as match funding in grant applications.

Neighbourhood Plan – as we have been awarded a grant in 2018/19 it is highly likely we will succeed in applying for further grant in 2019/20 to continue the plan work. We can apply for Grant Support up to £6,267 in April 2019 and also Technical Support up to £9,000 depending on the assistance we require. However, there may be expenditure outside the scope of the Support. Community involvement was low at present but the current year grant enables information and consultation on issues to take place.

It was **AGREED TO RECOMMEND** the following budgets for 2019/20:

A - Open Spaces:
Allotments - £500
Bleadon in Bloom - £200.

B - Special Projects:
Play Area - £2,500
Neighbourhood Plan - £2,500

F&P 54.8 To Consider the budget setting and precept demand for 2019/20

The following points were discussed:

Subscriptions – currently ALCA and Scribe Accounts. December Council meeting to discuss current and potential subscriptions.

Newsletter – the next edition's advertising will cover the printing costs. Permanent Editor needed.

Questions – should it be 'glossy' (as currently) or simplified? Can more advertisers be sought?

Election expenses – 2019 is an election year. NSC manage the process at Parish Council cost.

Dog Waste – Clerk to publicise that dog waste can go in any NSC street bin and also in domestic waste.

Commercial Waste – still no confirmation from NSC of the likely cost. Agreed that the cost can be shared by Hall Management, Youth Centre and Parish Council, but PC should pay less as they are the smallest user.

Churchyard – need to build up a reserve for cyclical maintenance (eg wall repairs).

Playground – need to build up a reserve for periodic replacement of equipment.

A review of the cost / benefit of certain items currently provided or managed by the Parish Council will be discussed at a later date.

After some adjustments to the draft proposal the following budgets were agreed:

£16,800 = Staff
£13,009 = Administration
£19,925 = Open Spaces
£ 8,500 = Special Projects
£ 500 = Grants given
£58,734

Precept proposed = £45,344. This is an actual increase of £943, being 2.12% increase on last year.

It was **AGREED TO RECOMMEND** that the proposed budgets and Precept be approved.

The Chairman suspended Standing Orders at 9pm. The councillors **agreed** to continue the meeting for a short time in order to finish the agenda items. Standing Orders were reinstated at 9.01pm.

F&P 54.9 To agree the date of the next Finance and Personnel Committee Meeting

The next meeting will be at 7pm on Friday 11th January 2019 in the Coronation Hall.

**F&P 54.10 The Council is recommended to RESOLVE that members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following agenda items by reason of the confidential nature of the items of business to be transacted, in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960
RESOLVED.**

F&P 54.11 To Consider the quotes for Dropped Kerbs into the car park.

Only one quote had been received (over £1,000) and the Committee had already agreed not to approve expenditure from reserves on this item.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.