

Minutes

Finance and Assets Committee

Tuesday 3rd January 2017 at 7.00pm

Committee Membership: Cllrs Batchelor (Chair) (Broadway), Ridout (Vice Chair) (West), Dancey (East), Davis (East), Fraser (West), Humphries (Broadway) and Jolley (Broadway)

Present:

Councillors: Batchelor, Ridout, Dancey, Davis, Fraser, Humphries and Jolley

Officers: H Abernethie and V Mills

Public and press: 0 members of the public and 1 member of the press.

275/17 Apologies

- a) There were no apologies.
- b) None.

276/17 Minutes

- a) The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 7th November 2016 were approved as a true record and signed by the chairman.
- b) None.

277/17 Declarations of Interest

None.

278/17 Chairman's Announcements

None.

279/17 Public Participation

- a) None.
- b) None.

280/17 Reports from Unitary Authority Members

Councillor Ridout reported that purdah at Wiltshire Council would begin on 15th March.

281/17 Financial Information

- a) The reconciliations for October and November 2016 were noted and the chairman signed and verified against the bank statements.
- b) The accounts to November 2016 and the report on material variances were noted.
- c) The list of payments made in October and November 2016 were approved and signed by the chairman.
- d) The petty cash schedules October–November and November–December 2016 were approved.

- e) The internal transfers between the accounts on 8 November £10,000, 15 November £7,000 and 14 December £2,000 were noted.

282/17 Draft Budget 2017–2018

Councillor Batchelor proposed acceptance of the draft budget of £542,612, an increase of 3.94%. Seconded Councillor Humphries. The members debated whether to set aside an additional £10,000 per annum for long-term maintenance for play equipment in the park. Funding can be sought from Section 106 monies to replace play equipment but maintenance will be an ongoing expense. With the danger that capping could be introduced in the future it would be prudent to take the opportunity this year to make provision. The effect of the additional £10,000 would amount to an additional 3p per week on Band D properties. Given the level of public interest in improvements to the park this would seem to be worthwhile.

Councillor Jolley proposed acceptance of the precept requirement of £552,612, an increase of 5.86%. Seconded Councillor Fraser. Councillors Batchelor and Humphries agreed to withdraw their original proposal.

Voting In Favour of increasing the precept to £552,612 5, Against Nil, Abstentions 2. The proposal was carried. Full Council would make the final decision on 16 January 2017.

283/17 Devolved Services

- a) The minutes of the working group meeting held on 24 November 2016 and all the actions contained therein were approved.
- b) Expenditure:
- **Bank reinstatement:** Councillor Jolley proposed acceptance of the expenditure of £14,917 for the reinstatement of the river bank following moving water voles to a safer habitat downstream. Seconded Councillor Humphries, voting unanimous In Favour.
 - **Town Park compound garage:** Councillor Jolley proposed acceptance of the additional cost of £1508 to build up the garage to improve safety and security for the storage of outdoor equipment. Seconded Councillor Batchelor, voting unanimous In Favour.
 - **Outdoor gym project:** Councillor Humphries proposed the Clerk be asked to approach Wiltshire Council's Health and Wellbeing Group for a grant and that £5,000 be set aside from capital earmarked reserves. Seconded Councillor Davis, voting unanimous In Favour.
 - **Copse removal:** The removal of the copse between the play area and skatepark would give better CCTV coverage and enable parents to have a clearer view of the play area. Councillor Batchelor proposed acceptance of the expenditure of £450 for the copse removal, seconded Councillor Fraser, voting unanimous In Favour.
 - **Replacement fencing to skatepark:** Councillor Ridout proposed acceptance of the sum of £450 to replace the fencing at the skatepark. Seconded Councillor Jolley, voting unanimous In Favour.
 - **Scout hedge:** Councillor Fraser proposed acceptance of the sum of £302 to repair the hedge at the scout hut. Seconded Councillor Davis, voting unanimous In Favour.

- **Section 106 monies:** There were funds of £16,700 available from the Fairview House development to be used for the Town Park play provision and £15,000 from the Damask Way development to be used for play provision. Members debated the projects currently being planned. Approximately £180,000 would be needed for the new skatepark and £100,000 to refurbish the tennis courts. Councillor Ridout proposed that the £31,700 be split 50:50 between the tennis courts and skatepark projects. Seconded Councillor Jolley, voting unanimous In Favour.

284/17 Insurance Policy

The Clerk had carried out a full review of the Council's internal and external assets. The policy is complex and the three-year deal is suitable for the Council's needs. All valuations for rebuild costs are up to date. Councillor Jolley proposed acceptance of the renewal of the insurance policy for three years with Aviva until 2019 with an annual cost of £13,712 from 1 December 2016 until 30 November 2017 payable in monthly instalments. Seconded Councillor Batchelor, voting unanimous In Favour.

285/17 Banking Arrangements

Although the Council had always banked with HSBC, Lloyds Bank had better rates for bulk savings. Transferring the Council's accounts to Lloyds would be complex but it would be prudent to open a business account with Lloyds for transferring funds into a better interest-bearing account, with a view to move the full accounts at a future date. Councillor Batchelor proposed acceptance of opening a business bank account with Lloyds, seconded Councillor Ridout, voting unanimous In Favour.

286/17 Dewey Trust

There had been no further information on whether the Council would be the beneficiary of the H N Dewey bequest. Councillor Jolley proposed that in the absence of guaranteed funds from the Dewey Trust the Council should reduce its maximum grant to £1,000 as funds would be limited. Seconded Councillor Ridout, voting unanimous In Favour.

287/17 Communications

- a) None.
- b) None.

Meeting closed at 7.35pm.

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