



DITCHLING PARISH COUNCIL

Ditchling Village Hall 18 Lewes Road Ditchling East Sussex BN6 8TT
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 Parish Clerk: Sarah Mamoany Deputy Clerk: Derek Blackhall

Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held remotely on Tuesday, 20 October 2020 at 6.30pm.

Present: Cllr Orme (Chairman), Cllr McBeth, Cllr Farrands and the Clerk, Sarah Mamoany

Public Participation:

No members of the public were present

1.	Apologies were received from Derek Blackhall, Deputy Clerk	
2.	Declarations of Interest – no declarations of interest were made.	
3.	Minutes of the Finance meeting held on the 11 November 2019 were agreed by the Committee and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.	
4.	To consider interim internal audit report and recommendations The Clerk advised that the interim internal audit had been completed remotely and she was awaiting the written report from Mulberry and Co.	
5.	To consider funding of major projects in 2021/22 The Clerk had produced a separate capital project budget which was discussed. It was noted that 2021/22 was dependent on the funding that could possibly be received from LDC in the form of CIL funding. Currently the 2021/22 capital project budget showed that the Council could need to borrow in the region of £32,000 to complete the car park project; this was based on an estimated contribution from LDC of £70,000 as the SDNP have recently confirmed £70,000 CIL funding towards the project. The LDC Cabinet meets on the 10 December in regards to making the final decision, so it was noted that the Council will meet on the 14 December, which is when final budget will have to be agreed for 2021/22 to confirm the precept figure to LDC by January 2021. Therefore, the Finance Committee will recommend to the Council that the draft is considered at the October meeting and brought back at the December meeting for final resolution. It was noted that the budget was based on a PWL for the sum of £75,000 over 25 years, payments would currently be £4,066.42. The general feeling was the Car Park project should be in construction stage in 2021.	
6.	To consider precept and budget 2021/22 for recommendation to the full Council The Clerk had circulated papers in relation to the draft budget, showing 2019/20 spend, 2020/21 actual year to date spend and proposed budget figures for 2021/22. This had been based on trying to retain the precept figure for 2020/21 as the precept was increased in the region of 15% last year. Main areas to note in relation to draft budget: 4000 Staff Salary/Pensions – increased by 2.5% 4070 Training – reduced by £500 due to online training costs being less 4130 Insurance – increased by £200 4230 Litter Honorarium – removed as we no longer have a volunteer in place to do this, moved to grant funding budget 4900 Lighting supply/maintenance contract – reduced by £550 as this is reflected in this year's charges	

7.	<p>4920 – Lighting repairs – increased by £1,500 costs increase every year with replacement lanterns costing in the region of £1,500 each and new supplies needed on some old units still. 1500 Rental income – due to the COVID-19 situation and Ditchling Football Club not currently using the pitch this has been reduced from £2,600 to £1,500</p> <p>The Clerk noted that expenditure for cleaning the war memorial, external repairs to the Scout Hut (which are the Council's responsibility) and repairs to playground equipment had not been budgeted for in previous years. However, due to the level of general reserves, this currently was not an issue, but should be noted. It was suggested by the Clerk that EMR could be set up from general reserves for future Scout Hut Expenditure in the region of £2,000.</p> <p>The following adjustments were agreed by the Committee to the draft budget.</p> <p>4305 – War Memorial – include the sum of £150 4351 – Scout Hut Premises – remove the suggested £590 allocated 4170 – Grants – increase from suggested £4,000 to £5,000</p> <p>Cllr McBeth noted he has been in communication with the Chairman of Hassocks Parish Council and one of the areas they discussed was the footpaths and how due to increasing use of them in lockdown and with people working from home and using them more they were in need of repairs. Therefore, perhaps the Council could consider contributing to these repairs via donations to the Monday Group. The Clerk was asked to contact them to see if they would be able to attend a Council meeting to discuss these matters. Grant applications would be discussed for the current financial year in December 2020.</p> <p>Cllr Orme noted that the Unity Trust bank made charges which should be shown at £75 under bank charges (4090), pro-rata against interest received (1090) and this was agreed by the Committee. The Clerk will check the interest received on the NSL account.</p> <p>The following adjustments made to the draft budget was an overall increase of £560, which would calculate at a precept of £99,465 which amounts to a 0.5662% increase. The Committee agreed to put this forward to the Council on the 26th October for review.</p>	Clerk
	Future meeting dates – May 2021	

The meeting closed at 7.27pm