

Minutes of meeting on Wednesday 8th Nov 2017
of the Finance and Budget Committee
on Grants, Budget and Precept for 2018/19

In attendance – Councillors:- Peter Minihan (Chair), John Nicol, Tim Wright and Treasurer Chris Hoy.

- 1. Apologies – None.**
- 2. Declaration of Interests – None.**
- 3. Minutes of Finance and Budget Committee on 29/06/17 – Approved.**
- 4. Grant Applications for 2018/19 – see below.**
- 5. Budget and Precept for 2018/19 – see below.**
- 6. Employee Matters – see below.**
- 7. Date of Next Meeting – deemed unnecessary in the present circumstances.**

4. Grant Applications for 2018/19

The committee uses a detailed list of criteria for Grant Selection that has been compiled with advice from Cumbria Association of Local Councils. This has enabled the committee to recommend the following allocations. The benchmark guide is available for parishioners to view upon request.

The following are recommended to the full committee of councillors for consideration on 6th December 2017.

GNAA Applied for £200 Recommendation £200 Towards running costs

The committee agreed that this application does not match the full criteria, however it agreed it provided a vital service to the community and therefore recommends £200.

FellRunner Applied for £380 Recommendation £380 Providing a scheduled local bus service

The committee agreed that this application does not match the full criteria, however it agreed it provided a vital service to the community and therefore recommends £380.

Lazonby & District Pool Applied for £500 Recommendation £500 Towards disabled use Wet Room

The committee agreed that this met the criteria and recommended £500 with a proviso that the work is undertaken within a year of the grant being paid (from May 2018) and that the Council's Pool Liaison Officer Chris Hill monitor the progress.

Eden Valley Scouts Applied for £654 Recommendation £327 Purchase of hammocks and tarps for more adventurous camping trips

The committee agreed that this met certain criteria in that it benefited certain members of the parish. However the Scouts are based in Kirkoswald and therefore a recommendation to fund 50 percent of the costs was considered appropriate.

Red Squirrel Group Applied for £1000 Recommendation Nil Purchase of equipment to detect Squirrel species in Penrith area

The committee agreed that the application did not demonstrate that the Squirrel group were active in the parish and felt it was of no benefit to the parishioners. Therefore recommended no offer of a grant.

Lazonby Bowling Club Applied for £1250 Recommendation Nil Purchase of a new mower and towards costs of a new storage shed.

This particular grant application was sent to the Clerk after the deadline. The application was referred to the full Parish Council at their meeting on 1st Nov 2017 to decide upon its inclusion despite its late arrival. The Parish Council judged that the decision be made by the Finance committee at their meeting on 8th Nov

2017. The Finance committee subsequently recommends no offer of a grant as the application was made after the deadline and felt that precedence would be set for future applicants if the rules and regulations were not adhered to. The Clerk had sent constant reminders to all past applicants (from which the Bowling Club benefited the previous year) as an extra service of helpfulness.

Total Applications £3984 Total Recommendations £1407

5. Budget and Precept for 2018/19

The Treasurer provided the committee with figures that took into consideration the Budget allocated from last year and what is envisaged being received and spent up until this current financial yearend. (Detail is attached). As at 31st March 2018 the projected reserves estimated **£18226**. This figure was agreed by the committee as a starting point for calculating the future reserves, Budget and Precept for 2018/19.

The Treasurer then presented his Preliminary Budget for 2018/19, which included provision for a new mower for £500, the annual service agreement to the pool committee for £2500, costs for the Will Pool Path for £1000 subject to a Grant and the usual annual income and expenditure incurred.

The committee agreed with the initial Budget with one exception. The Treasurer had allocated £6100 towards salaries which included a pay rise for next year, the committee felt that a contingency should be built into the figures for any additional working hours. This was agreed at £900 extra raising the cost to £7000.

The Preliminary Budget was adjusted by the change and agreed a deficit of **£2647**. This now equated to a revised projection of reserves as at **31st March 2019 of £15579**. (Detail is attached).

The Treasurer then drew the committee's attention to **Paragraph 3.4** of the Financial Regulations that stipulated a contingency reserve of £10k held at financial yearend. (The projected reserve of £15579 provided more than adequate capital to function). Financial Regs **3.4** offered the full committee the benefit either to leave the Precept unchanged, decrease or increase depending on the projected reserves being greater or less than the contingency reserve (£10k).

The Treasurer then proposed that the estimated figure of £15579 would, in more certain circumstances, necessitate a small decrease in the Precept. However he recommended an unchanged Precept of £10350. The reasoning behind this proposal being the uncertainty of the Devolution of Assets and the strong probability of management by the Parish Council. This prospect meant that the Precept would be under pressure to increase with rising costs. However a 'no change of Precept' at present would be prudent as any decrease would need to be reversed later. With strong reserves compounded over the next few years when costs of devolution impact with year on year reducing grants, the present Precept level may prevent a steep increase later and may even remain unchanged if costs are manageable. **The committee was in agreement and recommends the Precept remain unchanged at £10350.**

6. Employee Matters

John Nicol presented a draft format for staff appraisals. The Clerk and Treasurer have read the proposals and agree to its implementation in 2018.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

Chris Hoy
Treasurer
10.11.2017