

Minutes of the meeting on Thursday 22nd Nov 2018 of the Finance and Budget Committee on Grants, Budget and Precept for 2019/20

In attendance – Councillors :- Chris West (Chair), John Judson, Jeff Bellas and Treasurer Chris Hoy.

1. Apologies – None.
2. Declaration of Interests – None.
3. Appointment of Chair – Chris West.
4. Appointment of Minute Taker – Chris Hoy
5. Minutes of Finance and Budget Committee on 08/11/17 – Approved.
6. Grant Applications for 2019/20 – see below.
7. Budget and Precept for 2019/20 – see below.
8. Date of Next Meeting – deemed unnecessary in the present circumstances.

Prior to the meeting the committee members were forwarded from the Treasurer a copy of his report entitled ‘notes and guidance regarding Grants, Budget and Precept for 2019/20’ and a spreadsheet as a module for various Precept scenarios over the next 4 years. This document has now been incorporated into the minutes of this meeting to provide detail in an attempt to find suitable recommendations for the Full Committee of the Parish Council to agree on the Grants, Budget and Precept.

6. Grant Applications for 2019/20

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 5th December 2018.

GNAA Applied for £200 **Recommendation £200** **Towards buying new medical bags for use onboard their three helicopters.**

The committee agreed the GNAA provided a vital service to the community and therefore recommends £200.

FellRunner Applied for £358 **Recommendation £358** **Providing a scheduled local bus service.**

The committee agreed FellRunner provided a vital service to the community and therefore recommends £358.

Lazonby PCC Applied for £1000 **Recommendation £500** **Towards financial assistance for the installation of an electrical winding mechanism for the church tower clock.**

The committee agreed that the clock was beneficial to all parishioners and an important element of the heritage of the area and therefore recommends £500.

Total Applications £1558 **Total Recommendations £1058**

The committee also agreed to recommend that a donation be made available to Lazonby Village Hall towards costs for the new heating system, no amount was specified.

7. Budget and Precept for 2019/20

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. SEE 'notes and guidance' below). As at 31st March 2019 the projected reserves are estimated as **£19284**. It is important to note that this reserve figure incorporates the 1st years grant from EDC for the adoption of Footway Lights (already paid) and the expected expenses associated with the ownership. This figure was agreed by the committee as a starting point for calculating the future Reserves, Budget and Precept for 2019/20.

The Treasurer then presented his Preliminary Budget for 2019/20, which included provision for the 2nd years grant for Footway Lights, associated costs for ownership and the adoption of the unapproved lights. Also the ownership of the Play Area with a grant and associated costs. (SEE 'notes and guidance below'). The committee agreed with the initial Budget and recommended adoption. **Reserves were therefore estimated to be £13214 as at 31/03/2020.**

Finally the committee considered 5 options that the Treasurer presented through a module spreadsheet depicting various scenarios for setting the correct amount for the Precept. (SEE 'notes and guidance below'). The committee recommended that option 5 be considered :- to increase the Precept by £1500 every year until 2022 with a proviso to increasing further if required when greater clarity develops over the real costs of owning the Footway Lights. The committee agreed that this would use some of our current reserves that have been underutilized over many years and represent the best value for the parishioners. This would equate to a reserve figure of **£13746 in 2022/23** assuming that the budget agreed for 2019/20 remains unchanged over the next 3 years. (All grants and costs regarding the Footway Lights over these intervening years **are** included in the projections). **TO NOTE**, the question of providing a new light at 34 Bartondale has not been considered in these recommendations, should the Full Committee decide to replace the obsolete light at the meeting on Dec 5th at a cost of £2500 the budget would be adjusted. An estimation of £5 per household is expected to be incurred with an increase in the Precept.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Chris Hoy
Treasurer
23.11.2018