

## Minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 20th Nov 2019 of the Finance and Budget Committee on Grants, Budget and Precept for 2020/21

In attendance – Councillors :- Chris West (Chair), Tim Wright, Gill Sharples and Treasurer Chris Hoy.

1. Apologies – John Judson, Gill Sharples was co-opted as replacement.
2. Declaration of Interests – Tim Wright as Eden Valley Players member affiliated to the Village Hall.
3. Appointment of Chair – Chris West.
4. Appointment of Minute Taker – Chris Hoy
5. Minutes of Finance and Budget Committee on 22/11/18 – Approved.
6. Grant Applications for 2020/21 – see below.
7. Budget and Precept for 2020/21 – 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 regarding Grants, Budget and Precept for 2020/21. 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 2020/21**

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 4<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

**GNAA** Applied for £200 **Recommendation £200** **Financial assistance for general running costs.**

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

**Lazonby PCC** Applied for £500 **Recommendation £250** **Financial assistance for upkeep of churchyard.**

This was considered as being a recurring application for the same activity under the selection criteria advised by CALC. However the committee felt that some contribution was necessary to the maintenance of the church grounds and therefore recommends £250.

**FellRunner** Applied for £249 **Recommendation £249** **Providing a scheduled local bus service.**

The committee agreed FellRunner provided a vital service to the community and therefore recommends £249.

Lazonby V H (Snooker Club) Applied for £4650 **Recommendation £2200 Financial assistance to undertake decorative work, painting and replacing carpet in the Snooker Hall.**

The committee agreed that this application does not meet the full criteria in that the Snooker Club operates as an exclusive club that not all Parishioners would benefit. However the Snooker Club generates funding for the Village Hall and provides recreation facilities that have become dated in appearance. Therefore the recommendation is £2200.

**Total Applications £5599** **Total Recommendations £2899**

## **7. Budget and Precept for 2020/21**

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. As at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 the projected reserves are estimated as **£19160**. It is important to note that this reserve figure incorporates the expected expenses associated with the unapproved lights of which 8 have been agreed to be included in Parish ownership once Eden DC have replaced the light heads. This figure was agreed by the committee as a starting point for calculating the future Reserves, Budget and Precept for 2020/21.

The Treasurer then presented his Preliminary Budget for 2020/21. **(See accompanying figures)**  
The committee agreed with the initial Budget with just a couple of changes and recommended adoption.

Finally the committee considered two options for setting the Precept that the Treasurer presented and decided to recommend Option 1. **(Please see accompanying figures on Preliminary Budget)**

The committee request that option 1 be considered :- to increase the Precept by £1500 to cover the next tranche for the footway lights and review again next year. 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. An estimation of £5 per household is expected to be incurred with an increase in the Precept.

The estimated reserves as at **31/03/2021** prior to the above recommendations were £ 11709.

**The new projection of reserves should the recommendations be approved £15209.**

Before the meeting closed the Chair, Chris West told the Committee that she had spent some time thinking over the amount of work that the **Clerk** has to address in so few hours allocated at present. She mentioned that the Parish Council has become one of the largest in the area and very proactive with an increasing portfolio. This volume had filtered down to the **Clerk**, often working extra hours to complete tasks. The Finance Committee agreed to **recommend** a review of the **Clerks hours** and would present some proposals at the Full Council meeting. The Treasurer felt that his hours were appropriate and required no change when consulted.

Utility costs incurred by the **Clerk** were also considered as had fallen behind considerably, unchanged since her employment began. Therefore the broadband and electricity costs will need to be reviewed.

Also to be considered, the suggestion that all staff members be given some promotion in recognition of their service and standard of work. The last promotion was 3 years earlier and still below £10 an hour as the majority of Parish Councils are now paying above the 'Living Wage' for the experience that the staff have at this Council.

**The meeting closed at 9.15pm**

Chris Hoy  
Treasurer  
22.11.2019