

Draft Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held by Zoom 20 November 2020 at 1930.

1. **Present** Cllr Taylor (Chair) Cllr Shaw (Vice Chair) Cllrs Wray, Crawley and Millener, Clerk Mr Galopin

2. **Apologies** Cllrs Perry, Redrup & Reading

3. **Minutes** of the last Finance Meeting - there was no meeting in 2019

4. **Clerk** explained the 7 month budget out-turn, being the actual spending until October 2020, and the extrapolation of the remaining 5 months, which at an estimated £201,920 is precisely on track.

Chairman and Cllr Shaw noted that we have never had our precept queried by the Residents - it is clear from our actions the money requested is put to good use. However in these uncertain times when many are struggling financially just to survive it was important to keep any increase as small as possible. Clerk confirmed we have adequate reserves should the Council's needs change in the coming year.

5. **Requests for financial assistance** - there were no new requests, so the list from last year stands.

6. **Salaries** Chairman recommended that the Clerk be moved up one scale to the previous Clerk's scale in April Chairman recommended a 2% increase for the ground staff, to ensure we stay above minimum wage, and to maintain the differential.

7. **Legal Action Fund** There was considerable discussion about setting aside funds for possible legal action on the Local Plan and the A25 Hedge, and it was agreed to maintain the level indicated in the budget, with any flexibility required met from reserves, but to reallocate £10k to Highways as below..

Recreation Ground Revamp It was noted that there was still £25k set aside in reserves for the Rec Revamp, and that this be matched in the current year's budget, but that the final allocation of money being kept flexible, awaiting the outcome of the Big Lottery application, if it proceeds .

Cllr Crawley offered to work with Cllr Wray in developing other sources of funding of which he has some experience. It was agreed that the revamp, floodlighting and perimeter path projects all be kept active as we await funding, and the outcome of the pandemic.

Highway Projects Cllr Shaw proposed that we allocate some funding to a J5 Slips Economic and Air Quality Report, and that this be noted clearly in the budget and used as a means of generating support from KCC, TMBC and other interested parishes. It was agreed that a sum of £10k be moved from "Legal Contingencies Local Plan & A25" to a new project heading of "**Highways Contingency Fund**".

8. **New Open Spaces** The new land at Harrison Rd and Isles Quarry East should have some funding allocated, but it was decided that as these areas were to be left largely wild, and with a large voluntary commitment, **£5000** should suffice for flail mowing and the like.

9. **Precept** Clerk amended the 12 month out-turn to reflect the above suggestions, which with the extra £5000 for the new Open Spaces comes to £206,920, an increase of approx 2.5%

The Finance Meeting recommends that the Council adopt the figure of **£206,920.00** as our precept for the year April 2020-2021, and that this request is lodged with Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council in January 2021 Chairman thanked everyone for attending, and in particular the Clerk for the work assembling the budget and the background papers. Meeting closed at 2030

Subs. & Donations	Foot Clinic	165.00	Christmas lights	£1,500
Kent Men of the Trees	Victim Support West Kent	100.00	COGS	400.00
KCPFA	Samaritans	50.00	OS Mapping	76.00
Age Concern Malling	SLCC	184.00	ICO Data Fee	35.00
Compaid	Action.in Rural Kent	50.00	JPCTG	50.00
Kent Air Ambulance	CPRE	36.00	T&MBC Playscheme 4 th wk	675.00
West Kent Mediation	KALC	975.00	Y2 Crew	300.00
			Try Angle Awards	75.00