

## **HARTING PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee held at 7.30 pm in Harting Community Hall, South Harting on Thursday 31 October 2019**

**Present:** Mr Bonner (Chairman), Mrs Bramley, Mrs Gaterell, Mr Palmer and Mr Shaxson.

In attendance: Trish Walker, Parish Clerk

**1. Apologies for Absence:** Mr Johnson Hill and Mr Miller.

**2. Declarations of Interest:** None

**3. Minutes from Meeting held on 27 August 2019** were agreed and signed.

**4. Budget Monitoring 2019/20**

The latest budget statement was noted.

**5. Movement of Funds**

The members discussed the balance of funds, £3209.91, that had been received from the Youth Club in May 2017 when the Club had ceased operating. The funding was given with the following conditions:

*Harting Parish Council to receive the funds into the precept to be ring fenced and only used for Parks and Open Spaces to support new or replacement play equipment in the three areas of the parish - South Gardens, Furze Meadow, and a small area on the Harting War Memorial Playing Field.*

*Alternatively, may be used at the discretion of the Harting Parish Council to provide initially support funding if a new Youth Club is formed.*

Earlier in the financial year the Council had purchased and installed a new slide in south Gardens at a cost of £5580. The members felt that the new slide satisfied the conditions laid down by the Youth Club and were happy to recommend that the Council offset £3209.91 of the cost of the new slide against the ring-fenced Youth Club fund.

*The following proposal was agreed:*

*that the committee recommend that the Council agree the movement of funds accrued in respect of the purchase of a new slide in South Gardens from "Capital" to "Youth Club".*

**6. Grant applications 2020/21**

The members reviewed the grants for 2020/21 and, as agreed the previous year, increased the WMPF and HCH grants by 2.1% (to the nearest £5) in line with the CPI rate at 1 April 2019.

The grants were agreed and included in the Budget Proposal to be presented to the full Council in December 2019.

*The following proposals were agreed:*

- i. *To agree to recommend that the Council allocate the following grants in 2020/21*
  - a. *Harting Community Hall and the War Memorial Playing Fields (£2250 each) - £4500 total*
  - b. *Harting Parish hospital car scheme - £180*
  - c. *Citizens Advice Petersfield - £300*
  - d. *Allotment rents - £50*
  - e. *The Parish Church and Congregational Church burial grants (£200 each) - £400 total*
  - f. *Other applications received from organisations with local connections.*
- ii. *To agree, as part of their overall grants, to recommend that the Council also covers the cost of the insurance premiums for Harting Community Hall and the War Memorial Playing Field and the cost of a bookkeeper for the former.*

## **7. Budget 2020/21**

Mr Bonner presented the proposed budget for 2020/21 (attached), this was reviewed by the members and following minor adjustments was agreed. The budget will be presented to the Council at the meeting in December 2019. The budget was remaining at the same level as the previous year.

It was noted there are several projects underway involving tree works, traffic and the footpath lights and it was agreed that, if any major schemes were approved, public loans could be considered as a funding option.

*The following proposal was agreed:*

*that the Committee agree to recommend that the Council accept the Budget for 2020/21*

## **8. Precept 2020/21**

The members agreed a recommendation should be made to the Council, at the meeting in December 2019, to set the precept for 2020/21 at £53,100, this being a £10,000 increase on the previous year.

The precept had remained at the same rate of £43,100 since the financial year 2017/18 with reserves used to settle the budget requirements. The reserves were now reduced, hence the need to increase the precept.

*The following recommendation is made:*

*that the Committee agree to recommend the level of precept to be requested from WSCC should be £53,100 for the year 2020/21*

**9. Items for next meeting**

To be agreed

**10. Date of next meeting**

To be arranged by the clerk.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm