

FLITTON AND GREENFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance Committee held at Sand Road, Flitton on Monday 12 January 2015

Present: Councillors N. Arthur (Chair), S. Phillips (ex officio) N Thompson (ex officio), P Woodland, J Sparrey and G Ellis

Also Present: D Lawson: Clerk to the Council

1. APOLOGIES AND SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no apologies.

Cllr J Sparrey and the Clerk declared an interest in any discussion about The Church Hall.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2014 were approved and signed

3. REQUEST(S) FOR FUNDING

None received

4. GREEN INFRA-STRUCTURE FUNDING

The Clerk outlined her discussions with Dave Sedgley about a potential application for a project to link Flitton to Flitwick as an accessible footpath which the Greensand Trust was supporting through their Chief Officer Jon Balaam. An email had already been circulated outlining the project and Members were very happy to support this. There were some questions about access in Brook Lane, but the Clerk explained that changes are planned under a separate project this year when the kissing gate would become a radial gate.

A discussion took place about whether the chances of an application would be improved with Parish Council financial support and it was agreed that it would be. A % figure was discussed to include in the 2015/16 budget, but it was agreed to seek Dave Sedgley and Jon Balaam's advice on this before any figure was agreed.

ACTION

The Clerk to pursue the matter of Parish Council funding and include an appropriate figure in the 2015/16 budget.

The application to be considered by Council on 21st January

5. S106 FUNDING FOR RECREATION AND COMMUNITY HALLS

CBC had notified the Clerk about two sources of S106 funding which can be applied for by the Council.

The first fund is available for sport/play/open space projects and there is in excess of £10k available to the Council to apply for. Members talked about making an application for this funding for outdoor exercise equipment to be placed at the Playing Field and possibly other locations in the Parish. It was also noted that one or two benches would be useful at the amenity land and further enquiries to be made about this.

ACTION

The Playing Field Sub Committee will meet to discuss the outdoor exercise equipment and come up with a plan

The Clerk to seek quotes for one or two benches

The second S106 funding is for Community Halls and would be applicable to both the Village and Church Halls. There is £1334 immediately available and another £4508 planned but not yet received from the Developer. The Village Hall has plans to replace the roof and the Church Hall has plans to replace the floor. Both Committees should now be asked to submit their proposals, which the Committee would be prepared to submit as an application

ACTION

The Village Hall and the Church Hall Management Committees be asked to submit their case to the Committee

The Clerk will speak to both officers at CBC about how to progress any applications

6. LTP RURAL MATCH FUND

Cllr Ellis outlined the project brief for Flitton Hill which had been agreed by the Highways Sub Committee and local residents. He had submitted an LPT application to CBC and already had some discussion about it. The project is for a hard measure at the top and bottom of the Hill and road markings to give a perception of narrowness. The costing's which Amey suggest are higher than the £15k originally thought and there was a detailed discussion about whether this amount should be increased in the budget to £17k and it was agreed it should be.

Cllr Ellis said that the idea of a one way system and the no right turn onto the A507 were not included in the brief as they would be too costly to implement as part of this project, but that they were still on hold. Members discussed the brief and any alternative ideas, but

AGREED

The Clerk should add £17k to the budget for 2015/16 as match funding for the project

7. SOLAR FARM COMMUNITY FUNDING

Following notification from Cllr Jamieson that planning approval had been granted and that the Community Benefit was being negotiated over a 25 year period, the Council was surprised not to have heard anything more about this. The Clerk noted that the CBC website still showed that the application had not yet been decided. It was agreed that this funding would be earmarked in the Council's budget, but that nothing could be done until CBC has made a formal notification of what will happen next

AGREED

The Clerk to contact Cllr Jamieson to enquire about progress.

8. QUARTERLY ACCOUNTS REPORT and BANK RECONCILIATION

The quarterly reconciliation showed a correct balance and this was noted. The funding available in the Community and Deposit Accounts was noted and the Finance Committee agreed to look at other Bank accounts for the future. The Clerk will get some alternatives for the next meeting and it was suggestion that other advice should be sought.

It was agreed that if further funds are to be placed on Deposit, there should be a better rate of interest than that currently paid. It was also thought to be a good idea to transfer some of the balances into a Renewals fund for say a new MUGA surface

ACTION

Enquiries to be made about alternative banking, especially if it allows full electronic banking

A sum of £8k be allocated to the MUGA renewals fund out of balances

9. BUDGET 2015/16

The Clerk had circulated the projected spend for the current financial year and estimates for 2015/16, including items of match funding discussed above. The budget would now need to be revised slightly in line with changes discussed above, but it was agreed that this should amount to a 0% change in the precept for 2015/16 or £36,290. Some areas of funding were discussed in more detail including the admin budget, reduced because of the one off 3 yearly insurance premium, the Clerks salary and printing requirements.

AGREED

The draft budget is amended for approval at the Council meeting.

A precept of £36290 or a 0% increase be recommended to Council for approval

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on 13 April 2015 with the venue to be announced.

11. INFORMATION ITEMS

There were no items for information

The meeting ended at 21.45h

Dated this 13th day of April 2015

Chair of Finance Committee