

Woodchester Parish Council

Clerk: Ann Bijkerk

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Minutes of the Finance Meeting held in the Village Hall on 10th January, 2019 at 6.30pm

Present: Cllrs. Baynham-Honri, Hamilton and Warnes

In attendance: The clerk

- 2019/1 To receive apologies for absence.**
There were no apologies for absence.
- 2019/2 To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda.**
There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda.
- 2019/3 To approve the minutes of 5th July, 2018.**
These were approved and signed as a true record by Cllr. Baynham-Honri.
- 2019/4 To review budget versus expenditure for 2018/19.**
Predicted expenditure for 2018/19 was discussed and is expected to fall within the budget for the year.
An upgrade to the website was a significant cost not included in the budget. Considerable savings have however been made on hosting, with a change in website company.
The sum of £250 was allocated for possible maintenance to the Bike Trails. This has not yet been required and it was agreed would be retained in the Lloyds Bike Trail account for future maintenance.
- 2019/5 To discuss and agree a budget for financial year 2019/20.**
The clerk had prepared a budget proposal which was discussed.
The fee for audit was expected to be significantly lower in 2019/20 with there no longer being a requirement for external audit.
The budget for a grant to the Royal British Legion for wreaths was increased to £150 as agreed by Councillors in November.
Councillors discussed maintenance within the village and agreed it is becoming increasingly difficult for Gloucestershire Highways to carry out the work on their limited budget. Therefore Councillors agreed to the Parish Council taking on more responsibility for the general upkeep of roadside verges within the village. It was agreed Cllr. Hamilton and the clerk meet with Ian Smith and colleague to discuss extending the contract to take in other areas. The maintenance budget was increased in 2018/19 to allow for work by Leyhill. It was agreed the budget remain at the same level for 2019/20.
Earlier in the year Councillors agreed a Grant Awarding Policy, with the closing date for the first applications being May 2019. Councillors agreed a potential sum of £500 for applications for projects which directly benefit residents of the village. If not awarded in any one year, the sum will be rolled forward to the following year.
Otherwise expenditure was predicted to be similar to 2018/19.

Initials.....

A budget of £13,360 was agreed.

2019/6 To discuss and agree the precept required for financial year 2019/20.

The shortfall between a budget of £13,360 and a predicted income from interest and VAT is £13,100.

Councillors agreed a precept requirement of £12,000 (an increase of 4.3% from 2018/19) with the shortfall of £1,100 then being drawn from reserves. This recommendation was taken to Full Council at the meeting which followed.

2019/7 To discuss the introduction of internet banking and to agree recommendations for the Full Council.

Councillors agreed to the introduction of internet banking. This would allow the clerk to view the accounts online and set up payments. Authorisation for any payment would still need to be approved online by two Councillors. This recommendation was taken to Full Council at the meeting which followed.

2019/8 To receive comments from members of the public on items discussed at this meeting.

There were no members of the public present.

The meeting closed at 7.00pm.

Signed

Date.....

Initials.....