

Woodchester Parish Council

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Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held remotely on 7th January, 2021 at 6.15pm

Present: Cllrs. Baynham-Honri, Hamilton and Warnes.

In attendance: The clerk and one member of the public

2021/1 To receive apologies for absence.

There were no apologies for absence.

2021/2 To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

2021/3 To approve the minutes of 9th January, 2020.

These were approved. Cllr Baynham-Honri agreed to sign a copy of the minutes and return them to the clerk.

2021/4 To review budget versus expenditure for 2020/21.

Predicted expenditure for 2020/21 is £12,026, just below the level of the precept.

Therefore, although the budget for the year is £14,180, no funds will be required from reserves.

Tree work created a significant overspend in the budget for the Bike Trails. This was balanced by underspends in other areas such as the purchase of new equipment, office costs and training.

2021/5 To discuss the maintenance contract for 2021/22 and agree a course of action.

The quote from the current contractor for 2021/22 has not increased from that of 2020/21. Councillors agreed to extend that contract for 2021/22. The clerk will confirm this in writing with the contractor.

Councillors had hoped that Leyhill Prison would have cleared some areas of the village this year, particularly Frogmarsh Lane and the High Street. However, due to them being in high demand and then the arrival of COVID-19, this has not been possible. The clerk will raise the issue with Gloucestershire Highways.

2021/6 To agree a sum to allocate for grants for 2021.

Grants have been awarded by the Parish Council for the past two years. The demand for funding however, has not been high. Therefore, of the potential allocation of £1,000 in the past two years, only £204 has been awarded. The remaining amount must be carried over.

Councillors agreed to allocate a figure of £500 again for 2021, but in order to ensure that residents are aware of the scheme, it will be publicised throughout the year.

The total amount available for 2021 will therefore be £1,296.

2021/7 To discuss and agree a budget for financial year 2021/22.

Councillors agreed a budget of £14,880 for agreement by Full Council. This figure is £700 higher than 2020/21 due to an increase in staff costs.

2021/8 To discuss and agree the precept required for financial year 2021/22.

Councillors agreed to increase the precept from £12,500 to £12,700. The additional cost to residents will be offset by a higher tax base. A VAT refund and bank interest

Initials.....

will provide income of approximately £110. Councillors agreed the difference of £2,070 will be taken from reserves.

This figure will be considered for agreement by Full Council.

2021/9 To review Financial Regulations for agreement by Full Council.

These were agreed by Councillors.

2021/10 To receive comments from members of the public on items discussed at this meeting.

There were no questions from members of the public.

The meeting closed at 6.50pm.

Chair..... Date.....

Initials.....