

# Cuddington Parish Council

## MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, NORLEY ROAD CUDDINGTON ON 10<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2020, COMMENCING AT 11am.

**Present:** - Cllr Chrimes OBE, Cllr Brooks - Chairman, Cllr Crist and Cllr Latham. Also, present Mrs Julie Chrimes – Clerk to the Council.

- 1. Apologies:** None.
- 2. Declarations of Interest.** Cllr Chrimes declared (a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, at item 5 due to her relationship with the Parish Clerk. Under (b) Other Disclosable Interests as required under Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011 and Cuddington Parish Council's Code of Conduct no members declared an interest.
- 3. 2020-2021 Budget monitoring.** Budget expenditure monitor to the end of November 2020 was reviewed and explanations were given for variances.  
The Clerk had produced papers showing current bank balances, as of 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020.  
The NS&I account was £19,322.22 and the Barclay accounts amounted to £45,957.65  
The total of all accounts was £65,279.87. The Clerk pointed out that there were several items that had not been budgeted for however, the Council had resolved during the year to use money out of the free reserves. These included, a defibrillator (Poplar Close), Line marking at the village car park Weaverham Road, memorial bench Weaverham Road, winter pansies at Norley Road shops, Covid-19 PPE and a Laptop.  
Expenditure including project spends to date was £68,623.29.
- 4. Designated Reserves.** Current balances of designated reserves were £24,492.00. This was for New Play Equipment required £19,322.22, costs for a reduction in speed limit at Cuddington Lane £3,500.00 and remedial work at Waste Lane £1,670.00.
- 5. Clerks report.** The Clerk reported on her increased workload and agreed that a description of specific duties for Clerk to the Council and Responsible Finance Officer will be updated and made available to the full Council at their statutory meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> December. It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to full Council; to increase the Parish Clerk's working hours by 1.5hrs per week from 31.5 to 33, back dated to September 2020. This will ensure that the council are compliant with its legal duties.  
The meeting discussed employees' pensions and it was agreed that the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) shall be an agenda item in March 2021, the clerk will gather information about the scheme.
- 6. Budget 2021-2022.** The Clerk produced a draft budget for 2021/22 which was considered line by line. The committee increased the clerk's salary scale by one point to Spinal Column Points (SCP) 34. It was noted that there is an increased amount for Boundary Lane Green maintenance, this is due to Northwich Town Council now cutting and removing the grass during the cutting season. The additional responsibility of the War memorial area and the planters at Norley Road shops means that village maintenance costs have also increased. It was **RESOLVED** that the committee recommend to full Council that the Budget for 2021/2022 is £88,265.00.

*Noted: Cllr Brooks left the meeting.*

**7. Precept requirements 2021/2022.**

It was proposed by Cllr Latham and seconded by Cllr Crist and **RESOLVED** that the finance committee recommend to full Council that the precept calculations for 2021/2022 are £88,265.00.

It was further **RESOLVED** that; £2,918.00 is taken from free reserves and used towards the precept requirements for 2021/2022, thus meaning there will be a 5% increase in the precept request to Cheshire West and Cheshire Council.

It was noted that the local precept charge is calculated by dividing the precept request by the parish tax base. The tax base for 21/22 has not yet been received.

The next Finance & General Purposes Group Committee meeting will be scheduled in March 2021.

*There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.50pm.*

Date.....

Signed..... Chairman