



Appleton Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee at Appleton Parish Hall on Thursday 2nd May 2019.

Present

Councillor P Walker (Chair), Councillor S Harris, Councillor S Benger, Councillor J Bilsland and Councillor B Axcell.

Mrs J Monks (Clerk)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The chairman, Councillor P Walker welcomed the members of the committee to the meeting. Councillor J Wheeler sent her apology as she was unable to attend.

2. Members Code of Conduct

Councillor J Bilsland declared an interest in relation to item 8, purchase of gazebo as she is the Chair of the Broomfields Community Group.

3. Matters Arising

Councillor P Walker provided an update from the previous Finance and General Purposes meeting held on 28th March 2019. Councillor P Walker stated that the clerk attended the Finance and Purposes meeting and took the minutes and provided advice. The clerk did not make any recommendations or did not have a vote on any recommendations.

Councillor P Walker confirmed that in relation to item five the Maintenance of Parish Assets included the bus shelters owned by the Parish Council.

4. PRS Music licence

Appleton Parish Hall had a PRS licence which expired in February 2019. The clerk contacted the company and has renewed the licence at the cost of £165.90 plus VAT. It was;

Recommended that;

The PRS music licence was renewed for the Parish hall at the cost of £165.90 plus VAT.

5. Quarterly Budget for 2018/2019

The clerk had produced a quarterly budget, and this had been reconciled with the bank account. Each item of expenditure was now marked with the allocated budget. It was;

Recommended that;

The final quarterly budget for 2018/2019 was to be approved at the Parish Council meeting in May.

6. Earmark Reserves

The clerk informed the Finance and General Purposes committee that the bank balance for the Parish Council as at 31.03.19 is £164,147.33. It was

Recommended that the current following funds are earmarked as follows;

Reserves for Elections	£3500.00
Reserves for Parish Hall maintenance/improvements	£50000.00
Reserves for Youth work	£10000.00
Reserves for van replacement	£12000.00
Reserves for Environmental Schemes	£15000.00
Reserves for Community Schemes	£50000.00
Reserves for Contingencies	£4000.00
Reserves for South Warrington library	£20000.00.

7. Budget for 2019/2020

Each item of expenditure was now marked with the allocated budget for 2019/2020.

Recommended that;

No amendments were to be made at this stage for the budget for 2019/2020.

8. Purchase of a Gazebo

This item will be discussed at the Events working group meeting on Thursday 9th May 2019.

9. Grass Cutting

The clerk had contacted the Street Scene manager of Warrington Borough Council who had confirmed that the cost of additional grass cutting would increase from £1,500 per cut plus VAT to £2,000 per cut plus VAT.

Recommended that;

The Parish Council instructs and pays Warrington Borough Council for additional grass cuts over the summer period as determined by the Chairman or the Deputy Chairman as and when required. The Parish Council approves the cost, which is approx. £2,000 per cut. The maximum number of cuts to be two, to the total value to be not exceeding £4,000. The funds of which are to be taken from the Emergency grass cutting budget.

10. Annual Subscriptions

Recommend that;

The Mid-Cheshire Footpath Society annual subscription was to be renewed at the cost £8.00.

11. Bawming of the Thorn committee Grant Application

The clerk has received a grant application for the Bawming of the Thorn for £676.00 towards running costs. The clerk confirmed that a grant of £250.00 was granted in June 2017 for the new road closure costs.

Recommended that;

A grant of £676.00 was made to the Bawming of the Thorn Committee towards running costs of the event.

12. Playability Grant Application

The clerk has received a grant application from Playability, the request is for a grant of £1000.00 towards the cost of the summer playschemes for children with learning disabilities. The clerk noted that the application stated that they were not receiving any contributions from any other organisations, however other local Parish Councils had received requests for financial assistance towards running the summer playschemes.

Recommended that;

A grant of £1000.00 was made to Playability towards the running cost of the summer 2019 playschemes for children with disabilities.

13. Parish Van

The clerk informed the committee that the van's MOT was due on 1st June 2019 and as such this would have to be renewed.

Recommended that;

The expenditure of up to £12,000 should be used to purchase a replacement van. The cost will include signage on the side of the van with the tree logo of Appleton Parish Council and the following wording, 'Appleton Parish Council Ranger'.

14. Local Plan Costs

The Parish Council has only received one bill for £2553.73 for the costs so far for the Local Plan Planning Consultant.

The details provided from the clerk of Grappenhall & Thelwall Parish Council are as follows;

South Warrington Parishes Liaison Group

Financial Information

1st April 2019

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| • Initial fee quoted by John Groves GT Planning
(£6,300 + £9,900) | £16,200 |
| • Extra allowance allowing for additional consultants and other costs | £ 8,800 |
| • Total estimated fee on which recharging between Parish Councils was based | £25,000 |

Total Expenditure to date that has been re-charged:

Date	Amount	Description	
17/12/18 £16,200 QUOTE)	£825	Local Plan Review – Interim Fee	(EXTRA TO
11/12/18 £16,200 QUOTE)	£150	EIA Screen Opinion	(EXTRA TO
22/11/18 £16,200 QUOTE)	£750	Objection to Stobart at DMC	(EXTRA TO
25/9/18	£3800	Local Plan Review	
13/9/18 £16,200 QUOTE)	£975	Objection Letter re: Stobart	(EXTRA TO
1/5/18	£2500	Local Plan Review	
Total	£9000		

Total Expenditure to date that has NOT been re-charged:

18/2/19 £16,200 QUOTE)	£975	Training for P/Cllrs & Residents	(EXTRA TO
18/2/19 £16,200 QUOTE)	£487.50	Local Plan Review – Interim Fee	(EXTRA TO
Total	£1462.50		

Total Expenditure to date (recharged and not yet recharged) = £10,462.50

Breakdown of Expenditure to Date:

Total Expenditure to date Local Plan Review Work	= £6,300
Total expenditure to date – work in addition to £16,200 quote	= £4,162.50
Total	= £10,462.50
(Total remaining to be invoiced for Local Plan Review Work from John Groves	= £9900)

Expenditure to date plus definite additional expenditure:

JG expenditure invoiced	£10,462.50
JG remaining to be invoiced from £16,200	£9,900
JG residents briefing sessions	£1,875
JG WBC delay plus evidence base	£2,250
JG additional fee i.e. leaflet	£ 600
Leaflet printing and distribution (inc S/Heath & Moore)	£3630
Total	£28,717.50

Additional Probable/Possible Expenditure:

- Stobart Public Inquiry Rule 6 Party (JG fees plus legal fees) £12,000 =
(this figure is approximate and funding may be available from other parties i.e. RSWF)
- Possible objection to a further Stobart planning application & representation at DMC £1,725 =
- Possible objection to a Six56 planning application & representation at DMC £1,725 =

Split of agreed £25,000 Charging by Parish Council for FY 2018/19:

Appleton	£7,093.68	28.37%
Grappenhall & Thelwall	£7,579.54	30.32%
Hatton	£ 126.71	0.51%
Lymm	£9,354.17	37.42%
Stretton	£ 447.17	1.79%
Walton	£ 398.72	1.59%

Note that due to the delays in the issue of the Local Plan, only £10,462.50 of the £25,000 had been spent during fy 2018/19. The costs will roll over into fy 2019/20, with further expenditure required (as detailed above)

- Note also that S/Heath will contribute £1000 towards the leaflets and Moore will contribute a pro rata fee of circa £80.
- Note that all Parish Councils should have put a provision in their 2019/20 budget for Local Plan work

The Finances and General Purposes committee noted that the initial costs have increased because the scope of the work required has increased which now includes the Eddie Stobart planning application.

Recommend that;

Appleton Parish Council's contribution to the Local Plan Consultancy Fees be limited to £15,000 of the overall cost. Any expenditure exceeding the £15,000 limit would have to be reconsidered by the Parish Council.