

# Hilton Parish Council

Hilton Village Hall, Peacroft Lane, Hilton.DE65 5GH

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## **Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting of Hilton Parish Council held at Hilton Village Hall at 7 pm on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

### **Present**

Councillors C Cuddington (Chair), M Coney, R Pollard, C Nield, S Stanton, S Campion, J Watson and S Davies

### **Also present**

Three members of the public.

### **106/20 To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies were received and noted from Councillor J McDonald

### **107/20 Variation of the order of business**

There was no variation to the order of business.

### **108/20 Declaration of members' interests**

There was no declaration of members interests

### **109/20 Public speaking**

The Chair informed those present that we did not have a Clerk for the meeting and that the minutes were to be taken by Cllr S Campion. For the purposes of the minutes the meeting would also be recorded.

A member of the public thanked the Parish Council for its informative article in the latest edition of the Hilton & Valley Dove Life directory. The resident noted that hanging baskets were on the agenda and asked if the Council would consider planter troughs on the railings near the Old Talbot Pub. It was also requested for the condition of the steps to be looked from the pavement near here that lead up to the bus stop. It was noted that it would be investigated and to find out who was responsible for their upkeep.

Another member of the public said despite the positive feedback in the Dove Life article that there were, he believed, many items purchased by the Council which have not been budgeted for and read out a list. Furthermore, he expressed his concern of the Council losing clerks from employment. There was also a list of items that he felt were not right with the new website. Although he commended the Council for obtaining \$106 money for the Scout Hut he felt that it could have been put towards other areas such as the AstroTurf.

The Chair noted the comments and hoped the resident appreciated that there was a lot to respond to and requested if he could put all his queries on an email so that the Council could answer his concerns accordingly.

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Signed by *Charles Cuddington*. Dated *29th January 2020*

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## **110/20 To review and discuss 2020/21 Budget paper prepared by Councillor R Pollard**

The Chair, Cllr C Cuddington was clear to point out as a Council that we are making decisions on the amount of money we are putting aside in the budget plan not to make decisions on the actual infrastructure / contracts.

Cllr R Pollard presented spreadsheet to the committee giving line by line explanation of its contents.

### **Expenditure – the following decisions were made:**

#### **111/20 - Salaries**

It was noted that the budget allowed for an increase in staff Salaries of approx. 2% and that this would follow the recommendation sent out by NJC. It would be cross checked against the new minimum wage requirement as advised by Cllr C Nield.

It was also noted that the Councillors had chosen and agreed not to take any allowance payment.

#### **112/20 - Regular expenses e.g. electricity, ground maintenance etc.**

It was noted that water meter seems high on spread sheet for Year 19/20 as we had a historic invoice covering a meter reading from 2018

Scribe was not in upcoming year budget as it has been cancelled and we are using a spreadsheet for accounts.

#### **113/20 - Office security (i.e. CCTV review and upgrade)**

It was noted that the current wireless cameras are still causing issues and dropping connection.

Decision required if the Council should keep £700 in budget and approach safer neighbourhoods when it is decided what we want to do with the CCTV. Proposed by Cllr C Nield, Seconded by Cllr S Davies – unanimously agreed

#### **114/20 – Sports Mobile budget**

Cllr J Watson pointed out that the Sportsmobile line of the budget should be placed under the community section of the budget. Cllr R Pollard agreed to action and amend spread sheet.

#### **115/20 – Van**

It was noted that the rental for the van had an extension of 3months whilst the Council sourced a replacement vehicle (as agreed at last meeting ref minute no **99/19**)

### **116/20 – Grants**

Cllr R Pollard explained that under S137 that we had available up to £40,000 available to put towards community grants based on a figure of £8.12 per electorate.

The Council plan to publish the availability of these grants to the community (as per min no.97/19) and would not have to be applied for by 31<sup>st</sup> Jan as previously requested.

Decision was made for £25,000 to be made available for s137 community grants. Proposed by Cllr C Nield, seconded by Cllr S Davies. Majority agreement

*Cllr J Watson wished to be recorded as voted against.*

### **117/20 - Christmas Tree Lights**

Having received excellent feedback from this year's lights it was unanimously agreed that £6,000 would be put in next years budget for Christmas lighting. Proposed by Cllr Sian Davies, seconded by Cllr S Stanton.

### **118/20 - Hanging baskets / other village planters**

It was agreed the Council would have a budget of £5,000 for floral displays in the village this year including four planters for village signs. Proposed by Cllr S Davies, seconded by Cllr C Nield, agreed by all.

### **119/20 - Other community events**

Cllr M Coney explained his experience in putting on community events to put into context the cost of this envelope budget.

It was agreed that £5,000 would be put in this budget. Proposed by Cllr M Coney, seconded by Cllr S Davies, all in favour.

### **120/20 - Noticeboards**

Proposed by Cllr C Cuddington, seconded by Cllr S Davies to budget for £4,500 for three more freestanding notice boards as installed in Peacroft Lane was agreed by all.

### **121/20 Other capital projects / Resurfacing astro pitch**

Cllr C Cuddington and the clerk R Scott had site visits last week with four companies who have to assess our current astro turf surface and recommend that the surface could be rejuvenated and a few minor repairs that a complete resurface. This would give additional 5years use. It has been well looked after and highly suitable for rejuvenation.

Additional features, including basketball hoops

Discussions were had over the three alternative surface options

Decision to budget for rejuvenation, not resurfacing and all agreed to put £30,000 in budget for rejuvenation. Cllr S Stanton proposed Cllr S Davies seconded.

### **122/20 Other capital projects / Adventure Playground**

Cllr C Cuddington proposed that we provide in the budget an additional amount of money so that we could get this project off the ground to go along with the £15,000 previously put aside for this project.

First proposal by Cllr M Coney of £35,000 this year to go with the £15,000 already in reserve – this was not carried

Cllr S Davies proposed £65,000, seconded by Cllr C Nield, which received a majority agreement. Cllr J Watson wanted it noted that he voted against

### **123/20 Level of reserve and contingency**

It was noted on the spread sheet at this point that the Council would have an unrestricted reserve of £74,055 which includes a strategic contingency budget of £20,000( as agreed in May 20019 Ref Minute number 3134/19)and a £10,000 In Year Budget Risk Reserve..The purpose of this contingency budget is broken down on the spreadsheet attached to cover any delay in the receipt of the SDDC precept which is normally paid in 2 parts April / July. It was agreed that this was considered good practice..

### **124/20 Income**

SDDC precept request (to be submitted by 3<sup>rd</sup> February)

After much discussion, Cllr C Cuddington proposed to keep the amount at £172,900 seconded by Cllr S Davies. Majority vote of 5 (*Cllr J Watson wished to be recorded as voted against*)

It was noted that given the above decision to freeze the precept that by implication there is an additional unrestricted reserve of £27,230

### **Date of next parish council meeting**

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 7pm in the Jubilee room of Hilton Village Hall

### **Close of Meeting 9.07pm**