

Final Minutes of Finance Committee held 19th November 2018

In attendance: M. Harriman M.J. Edwards, J. Holmes, B Blackmore, J Hobbley ,M. Wilde

Chair: Councillor M.J. Edwards

Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer: S Baxter

Apologies: None

1. **Apologies** : There were no apologies.
2. There were no members of the press and public present for the meeting.
3. Councillors were reminded of the need to Declare any Interest.
4. The **Minutes of the meeting** held on the 22nd October 2018 were agreed as a true record.
5. **Reserves Policy**. Councillors reviewed the Reserves Policy and the requirements to Earmark Reserves. Councillors were mindful of the comments received from the External Auditor concerning the level of reserves held, although these had previously been earmarked for specific purposes. The Clerk advised further to the e-mail she had sent which advised of the legal position as set out in the Practitioner's Guide, and the Audit Office document Community Council money. Revisions were made to the amounts set out in the previous document. Items were removed and items added in included CCTV and Speed signage. **Action: Clerk to circulate the revised document for approval, and to put on Agenda for next Council meeting.**
6. **Precept**: The Clerk circulated a prepared document showing previous years budgets, and the current year's budget, expenditure to date and projected expenditure to the end of the year, as well as anticipated costs for the following year, where known. The Clerk advised that the revised tax base had yet to be advised from WCBC although it had been requested, and this when it arrives might make a slight difference to the figure concluded at this meeting. The meeting undertook work concerned with setting out firstly the budget for 2019-20, and secondly the precept to be raised to support to it. The following issues were considered in reviewing the draft budget previously set.
 - i. A discussion about replacement street lighting and the amount required potentially from Reserves.
 - ii. A discussion about salary costs- the Clerk advised that she had projected as far as possible salary costs for the forthcoming year. The telephone contract costs needed to be added somewhere.
 - iii. A discussion about training costs and whether these are to become mandatory.
 - iv. A discussion about Grass cutting at Allington and adding in some costs of now cutting the junior pitch.
 - v. A discussion about Youth provision and possible expenditure
 - vi. A discussion about Reserves.

In conclusion the budget was set for 2019- 20 and a precept of £89, 000 which represents an increase of 1.40% to be recommended to Full Council for adoption.

7. **Agreement to be made with Gresford Athletic Junior Club for the use of Allington Park.**: Councillor Atherton attended the meeting and gave a background to this item and outlined a meeting that she and Councillor Holmes had held with members of Gresford Athletic club, to discuss future use by the club of the area, and contribution by the club to cover maintenance expenses. The issue of payment for usage was also discussed. Within the draft agreement there is provision for an annual pitch maintenance to be carried out

in conjunction with Gresford Trust as this would be cheaper. A discussion took place about the existing lease arrangement between Gresford Community Council and Gresford Trust which is due to be reviewed in 2023. It may arise then or prior , that Gresford Community Council need to start paying an annual fee. Councillor Harriman stated it had originally been stated that there was no exclusive use of the park by any one organisation. Councillor Atherton advised the agreement covers this and sets out the use of the pitch area of the Park for use by the club only at certain times. A discussion took place about what the costs are and whether the Community Council is allowed to sub-let within the terms of its lease. Councillor Edwards stated it would be important to make sure it is not lost on and is not subsidised. Councillor Harriman stated that Finance Committee should recommend a charge under the ULA to be reinvested, together with exclusive use by the club at certain times through out the year, and seek from the Trust their permission ,and Fiduciary agreement. The costs should be covered and not subsidised. In terms of the Athletic Junior Club, it is a case of not making any profit but recharging for any additional damage, and that we have to inform our landlords. Any additional costs arising would be passed on. **Action: The Clerk: to place on the agenda for the next council meeting for agreement. To write to the organisation and ask to see their accounts due to potentially entering into an agreement with them :to write a letter to the Trust as the landlords, to outline the proposed arrangement and whether this arrangement would be acceptable.**

8. **Members urgent matters for consideration. There were no urgent matters raised.**
9. **Date of next meeting 21st January 2019**