

Draft Minutes of Finance Committee held 22nd January 2018

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

Chair: Councillor J. Hobbley

Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer: S Baxter

Apologies:

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1. There were no apologies
 2. There were no members of the press and public present for the meeting.
 3. The Minutes of the meeting held on the 17th October 2017 were proposed as a true record by Councillor Edwards and seconded by Councillor Blackmore.
 4. Consideration was given by the Committee to each of the ten applications for Financial assistance that were made by the deadline of 30th November to be awarded for the Financial year 2018-19. Councillor Wilde raised the issue of not having full information regarding the bank accounts of some of those applying. It was agreed to revisit the Grant criteria for review at a future committee, prior to the next round of grant applications.
Action: Clerk. The details of the applications and the awards recommended by the Committee are outlined in the table appended. The following declarations of interest were made, members leaving the room and taking no part in the decisions made.
 - Councillor Janet Holmes- Interest declared in applications made by Gresford Trust and Gresford Bowling Club
 - Councillor Michael Edwards- Interest declared in applications made by Maes Y Pant and Marford Playgroup
 - Councillor Michael Harriman- Interest declared in application made by Gresford Bowling Club
 - Councillor Beryl Blackmore – Interest declared in applications made by Gresford Methodist Church Hall group, Gresford Retirement Club, and Gresford District Library
 5. The Committee gave further consideration to the draft Standing Orders, and to comments received from Paul Egan of One Voce Wales in relation to proposed items 9 and 10 of the draft, which the Clerk had obtained following query at the previous Committee meeting. In relation to these specifically, it was proposed to add the additions made by Saffron Walden Council, which Councillor Harriman highlighted. Some further amendments were suggested which the Clerk noted. It was agreed to recommend to Full Council the adoption of the revised Standing Orders. **Action: Clerk to amend and circulate.**
 6. The Clerk advised of the need to consider the appointment of Internal Auditors at this time. Committee considered the previous audit report and the audit record and specialist knowledge of JDH, who had previously undertaken internal audits for Gresford and for other Community Council's locally. The Clerk advised that she had enquired but had not been able to find any other suitably qualified professional with the knowledge of the sector. It was Agreed to recommend to Full Council the appointment of JDH Financial services to undertake the internal audit for 2017-18.
 7. Committee considered the Statement of Reserves Policy and it was agreed that the current policy is sufficient to continue with for the time being, and to be reviewed when future

decisions are taken with available information about the Allotments, Cemetery and Lighting arrangements, matters which are currently ongoing.

8. It was agreed by Committee that Councillors Edwards and Holmes will undertake the necessary checks to verify the completion of the Cash Book and Reconciliation of balances by the Responsible Financial Officer. **Action: Clerk to send the necessary information on to both Councillors.**

9. The Clerk updated Members concerning feedback from the University of Wales in regard to the Allotments. Valuation is being obtained by the University of Wales from Jones Peckover. There is some delay and they are following this up. There was also a procedural matter raised which Committee agreed it would be necessary to obtain legal advice upon. Suggestions were made as to how this could be proceeded with. **Action: Clerk to seek to obtain the necessary legal advice and to liaise as necessary with the Secretary of the Allotments Association.**

10. No date was agreed for the next meeting- it was agreed that the Clerk will arrange the next meeting as required in March or April, or sooner if required concerning matters ongoing.

APPENDIX 1

	NAME OF GROUP	TYPE OF GROUP	CONSTITUTION INCLUDED	AMOUNT AGREED BY COMMITTEE
1	Gresford Trust	Charity/ Voluntary Community	Yes	£3650.00.
2	Gresford Methodist Church	Church Hall group	N/A	£500
3	Gresford Retirement Club	Voluntary Community Group	Yes	£400.
4	Maes y Pant Action group	Charity and Voluntary Community Group	Yes	£400
5	Gresford and District Community Library	Charity and Company ltd by guarantee	Yes	£4,400
6	Gresford Village Bowling Club	Charity	Yes	£500
7	IMAGE	Charity	Yes	£492.95
8	Marford Playgroup and toddlers	Charity	Yes	£500
9	Llangollen Eisteddfod Committee	Not known	No	£100
10	Urdd Gobaith Cymru	Youth Organisation	Yes	£50