

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
OF HEPTONSTALL PARISH COUNCIL**

HELD AT REMOTELY VIA ZOOM, 18 JANUARY 2021

Present : Councillors M V Edwards (Chairman) J Crowther
Dr J R Dunford N James & S Slater

99/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Slater declared a Disclosable Interest in respect of Hebden Bridge Old Peoples Welfare Committee grant application.

100/20 RECEIPT OF FINANCIAL REPORT TO 31/12/20

The Financial Report for the nine months to 31 December 2020 had received approval by Full Council on 4 January 2021, but was made available at this meeting to help with the budgetary projections.

BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR 2021/22

101/20 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

In view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted it was resolved that the press and public be temporarily excluded from the meeting in accordance with Standing Order no. 3(d).

The supplied documents and notes were scrutinised, the projected outturn at 31 March 2021 was identified, and the opportunity for questions was taken.
As a consequence it was resolved to recommend the following to Full Council :

102/20 ACTIONS ARISING FROM STAFFING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 18 JANUARY 2021

There were 2 specific items stemming from the Staffing Committee meeting :

A to consider the provision of **headsets** for use in remote Council and Committee meetings

B to recognise the **limited resource capacity** if considering the possibility of engaging in an Asset Transfer in respect of Heptonstall Museum. (*See below*)

- **Heptonstall Museum** : Following a detailed review of the financial and resource implications of involving an Asset Transfer it was resolved to recommend this Council should not explore the possibility of an Asset Transfer, but would welcome affordable Grant Applications to assist any community body who may wish to pursue this matter.
- **Clerk's Salary** : for the number of paid hours to remain at 10.5 per week, but with a permitted incremental increase of one scale point in respect of Responsible Finance Officer duties. (Scale Point 17 becomes Scale Point 18).

The salary to be included in the budget to be in the sum of **£7,088 for 2021/22** following the expectation of the NJC National award from 1 April 2021 which anticipates a 0% uplift from that date.

- **Chairman's Allowance** : It was resolved to recommend to Full Council that this item be re-evaluated with effect from 1 April 2024, unless there are exceptional intervening circumstances, and should remain at £742.
- **Grants** recommended for allocation :
- **Royal British Legion** : Wreath + donation : **£100**
- **Heptonstall Social & Bowling Club** : Parking Provision **£350**
- **Hebden Bridge Bowling Club** (via Midgehole Working Men's Club) – to be spent on either the bowling green or the bowling club premises **£250**
- **Heptonstall Lights & Planting Group** for Xmas Tree insurance **£265**
- **Heptonstall Lights & Planting Group** – to make provision for a Christmas Tree - **£195**
- **Heptonstall Exhibitions and Richard Naylor Charities** - **£500 for each = £1,000**
- **Hebden Bridge & District Old Peoples Welfare Committee** **£250** to assist the funding for '8-80 Conversations' (*Councillor Slater absented herself for this item, having declared a Disclosable Interest*)
- **CROWS** **£250** on a draw down basis for footpath etc repair works. Any unspent allocation for 2020/21 to be made available within 2021/22.
- **White Rose Archers** : **£1,260** for the provision of an all-weather safety access path.
- **Contingency provision** **£1500**
- **Subscriptions** were approved in accordance with the list provided by The Clerk : **£700.**
- **Insurance** : Approval for the re-negotiation of a 3 year deal effective from 1 June 2021. Estimate **£300.**
- **Neighbourhood Planning** : estimated contribution **£410**
- **Environmental issues** **£1,000**
- **Defibrillator cabinet electricity costs** : **£50** to the occupant of the Post Office premises.
- Allocation to **Computer Reserve of £200** (making **£1364** at 1 April 2021), and **Nil to Elections Reserve = £3,500**
- **Continuation of the Contingency Reserve** **£11,800** at 1 April 2021.
- **Investment Strategy** : to continue with investment policy as at present (invest surplus funds in renewable 6 month Term Deposit – April and October each year).

103/20 PRECEPT 2021/22

It was resolved to recommend a Precept and request the sum of **£17,500** (in addition to the two grants allocated to the Council of £952 + £1,162 making a **total of £19,614**). This would represent an **increase on Band D property of 19 pence per annum**.

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(Chairman)

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(Date)