



MINUTES

Committee: Finance and Policy Committee
Date: Tuesday 21 March 2023
Time: 6.15pm
Venue: Parish Council Office

Present

Cllr Jan Evans (Chair)
Cllr Gordy Keep
Cllr Vivienne Hodges
Cllr John Farrand-Rogers
Cllr Mike Warner

Also Present

Samantha Parkin (Clerk)

09/2023 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

10/2023 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS / REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

No declarations of interest were made. No requests for dispensations were received.

11/2023 MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr Hodges, seconded by Cllr Farrand-Rogers, and **resolved to accept** and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 21st February 2023 as a correct record. There was one abstention.

12/2023 GRANT APPLICATIONS

Cllr Farrand-Rogers queried if the current council has the power to take decisions - or even to make recommendations - about the spending of the precept in the next financial year, when there will be a new council, elected in May. The Clerk explained that it is normal council business to award grants and the current council will still be in office at the beginning of the next financial year.

A summary of the Grant Applications had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Moretonhampstead Library – The Clerk informed the committee that the library had withdrawn their application.

Community Swimming Pool – The committee noted the Swimming Pool was popular within the community and the school uses it annually to teach the children to swim. It was noted that the pool is facing rising costs.

Moretonhampstead Parish Hall Management Committee – The committee noted that the Parish Hall Management committee is working hard to make improvements to the Parish Hall.

Moretonhampstead Tennis Club – The committee thought it should support the Tennis Club but noted it had received a grant allocation last year. It was proposed by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Hodges, and **resolved to** recommend to the full Council to **allocate** the Tennis Club £100.

Wellmoor –The committee noted that Friends of Moretonhampstead School is an active fundraising group and questioned why Wellmoor were applying on behalf of the school. The committee requested further and better particulars.

Moretonhampstead Allotments – The committee questioned the practicalities of the water storage and noted the recent expenditure on the gate and the future planned expenditure on the ash dieback as landlords of the Allotments.

It was proposed by Cllr Warner, seconded by Cllr Hodges, and **resolved** to recommend the **award** of the following grants:

Moretonhampstead Community Swimming Pool - £500.00

Moretonhampstead Parish Hall Management Committee - £400.00

Tennis Club - £100.00

Total Awarded £1,000.00

13/2023 DRAFT FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

The draft Financial Regulations had been circulated with the agenda. Cllr Evans noted that para 2.2 states '*On a regular basis, at least once in each quarter, and at each financial year end, a member other than the Chairman [or a cheque signatory] shall be appointed to verify bank reconciliations (for all accounts) produced by the RFO*'. Cllr Evans informed the committee that she did not feel comfortable checking the accounts because she is Finance and Policy Chair and a cheque signatory. The committee agreed that Cllr Evans should continue to check the accounts until a new internal Financial Regular is appointed following the May elections.

It was proposed by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Hodges, and **resolved** to recommend to the full Council to **approve** the draft Financial Regulations.

14/2023 TIDY TEIGNBRIDGE GRANT

The draft Tidy Teignbridge tender had been circulated with the agenda. The Clerk explained that she had contacted Teignbridge District Council (TDC) to enquire which roads it was responsible for clearing weeds from. TDC informed the council that it was no longer responsible for weed clearance. The Clerk had also spoken to the Parish Sweeper who recommended spraying the weeds with an environmental weed spray.

Cllr Warner suggested that the council should seek hourly rates rather than advertising a tender. The Clerk noted the Council had £1100 remaining from the Tidy Teignbridge grant.

It was proposed by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Hodges, and resolved to **recommend** that the full council **advertise** the position with the following wording:

The council has been successful in the award of a grant from Teignbridge District Council to tidy Moretonhampstead and keep weeds under control during the summer months. The Council is seeking applicants to undertake this work.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 6.43pm.

TO DO ACTIONS:

- Add all recommendations to the March 28th full Council Agenda