**Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on Tuesday 17th December 2019**

**at 7:00pm in Beeding and Bramber Village Hall**

**Present:** **Councillors:** B Harber (Chairman), S. Birnstingl, S. Garrod, I. Ivatt, T Kardos.

**Also present:** Clerk/RFO: Celia Price, District Councillor: R Noel, Parish Councillors: A Chilver, J. Shaw, C Verney, Cemetery Clerk: C Harber

**Members of Public:** 2

The Chairman reminded members of the public of the requirement that they limit their participation to the Public Adjournment section of the meeting.

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| **F:1219:01** | **Apologies for absence**  Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Warren |
| **F:1219:02** | **Declaration of Councillor’s personal or prejudicial interest**  The Chairman reminded councillors that previous declarations still stand (as defined under the Localism Act 2011) |
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| **F:1219:03** | **Public Adjournment** |
| **F:1219:04** | Member of the public had no questions or comments other than to object to the order of the Agenda as they wanted to be part of the discussions regarding the budget. The procedure was explained and there were no further questions.  **Minutes of the last meeting**  Cllr Garrod challenged the accuracy of the minutes dated 19th November 2019 disputing that she had seconded the proposal to recommend the budget to full council (F:1911:08). The Clerk recalled and recorded Cllr Garrod seconded the proposal by raising her hand when the Chairman asked for a seconder. After discussion the Chairman invited the committee to vote as other members present also recalled Cllr Garrod raising her hand. It was proposed that the minutes remain unchanged and be agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.  Proposed Cllr Birnstingl, seconded Cllr Ivatt and agreed by all except for Cllr Garrod who voted against the proposal and requested her vote be recorded.  It was suggested that suitable sound equipment be investigated for the recording of council meetings and for this to be discussed at a future meeting. |
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| **F:1219:05** | **2019/20 Budget**  The Chairman addressed all questions raised in advance of the meeting ([appendix A](https://upperbeedingpc.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/UBPC/Ecmzts3fG1NAiBCUe72S-ocBrkeryAJYfPTKI84eaxlANA?e=npubgF)). It was noted that the remaining budget is scheduled to be spent before the end of the financial year, however wherever possible savings will continue to be made. It was resolved to note the contents of the report. |
| **F:1219:06** | **2020/21 Budget**  The Chairman presented documents previously circulated ([appendix B](https://upperbeedingpc.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/UBPC/Ecn_9q-YmoBIrwFxAFFWE7wButhpZQ5C75YaBHnw4rz2Bg?e=GLw4Jv)) and answered questions raised (appendix A).  A full and thorough discussion took place including clarification regarding both general and specific reserves. Consideration was given to accepting reduced services from WSCC and HDC resulting in a less well-kept village versus a potential increase in precept. The possible use of volunteers, and other cost saving initiatives were discussed with the aim of keeping proposed spending to a minimum.  It was resolved that the Finance Committee recommend approval of the proposed budget to the Parish Council at the January Council meeting.  Proposed Cllr Harber, seconded Cllr Birnstingl and agreed by all except for Cllr Garrod who voted against the proposal and requested her vote be recorded.  *Members of the public left the meeting.* |
| **F:1219:07** | **Schedule of Payments**  It was resolved that the interim schedule of payments totalling £2370.97 as tabled be approved.  Proposed Cllr Birnstingl, seconded Cllr Kardos and agreed by all. |
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| **F:1219:08** | **Matters raised by councillors**  Cllr Verney raised concerns regarding the aggressive nature of members of the public at Council meetings and reiterated that the order of the agenda is standard practice. Threats against the Council and Clerk should be noted for future reference and recording equipment needs to be investigated. Cllr Shaw added that it is better to have the public adjournment near the beginning to enable any comments to be considered throughout the meeting.  District Councillor Roger Noel commented on the thoroughness of the work in producing a tight budget and reiterated the need for Councillors to prepare ahead of the meeting.  There being no other business the meeting concluded at 9:48 pm  **The next meeting of the Finance Committee will be on Tuesday 17th March 2020 in Beeding and Bramber Village Hall.**  Minutes signed by: Date: |
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