



WHALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Special Purposes Committee Meeting held on Thursday 3 December 2020 at 7.30pm held via Zoom due to COVID 19 National Restrictions

1. PRESENT AND APOLOGIES

Present Councillors: M Highton (Chairman), J Brown, C Ball, J Threlfall, D Sleight, P Brown, G Smith, C Allen

Apologies: T Whistlecraft

In attendance: Clerk to the Council – M Richardson
0 - members of the public

2. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE PROPOSALS FOR ENHANCED CCTV IN WHALLEY – NOT FOR DECISION

Martin Highton opened the meeting with recapping on efforts and concerns of the Parish Council to tackle the rising ASB crime rates since 2018. Ribble Valley Borough Council had agreed to upgrade the existing 3 CCTV cameras as part of the capital programme spend for 2020/21. Following discussions with Borough Councillors and Community Safety Partnership there was proposal to make grants available to Parish Council's that had been affected by this issue. The grants will be available in financial year 2021/22 and cover capital investment costs NOT REVENUE expenditure. The Parish Council had identified several additional hotspots where crime tends to be committed and the following points debated: Further work to be undertaken to how the Parish Council will monitor the footage and comply with Data Protection Policy.

Having considered a draft proposal for the work, Cliff Ball felt there is much scope for project cost overrun - particularly with respect to the 'condition' of existing power supplies. He recommended the full manufacturers site survey for the wireless equipment AND supplier provided interfaces is carried out before the main contract is awarded.

Dave Sleight suggested that work should also be undertaken to see if to see if other Parishes that are looking to apply for funding could pool resources in terms of procurement. John Threlfall stated that in putting together any shared service specification that this must be underpinned by agreement on key principles. Patrick Brown questioned whether allocation of a CCTV camera near the Calder and Weir was appropriate.

Should the Council make a decision to apply for grant funding, the Parish Council would need to find 50% of the capital investment costs. It was agreed that at least 50% of the Parish allocation could be found from reserves.

3. TO SET THE PRECEPT FOR THE YEAR 2021/22

It was resolved to set the precept for 2020/21 as follows:

ADMINISTRATION

- Clerks' Salary – All Councillors agreed with the proposal of £9975 – Clerk is currently on spinal column point 7 at £10.44 x 72.16 hours per month based upon 2020-21 pay scales. In accordance with terms and conditions of the employment contract there is the option to increase by 1 increment following completion and passing of the CILCA Training
- Telephone – All Councillors agreed with the proposal of £180
- Office Rent – All Councillors agreed with the proposal of £520
- Mileage - All Councillors agreed with the proposal of £320 *Note this has been reduced from 0.65p per mile to 0.45p per mile in line with HMRC Guidance*
- Stationery – It was agreed by Councillors that this should remain at £500.
- Web Maintenance – It was agreed by Councillors to increase from £240 to £268 due to the need to make the site 'Secure' and meet new accessibility standards.
- Advertising – It was agreed that this cost centre should remain at £220 specifically for the newsletter
- Room hire – It was agreed to continue funding this cost centre at £300
- Insurance – The Parish Council pays for 2 types of insurance Employers Liability and Public Liability. The Councillors agreed provision to remain static at £1250
- LAPTC & other subs – All Councillors agreed that the figure should remain at £650 LALA & CPRE subscription costs have remained constant at £36 per annum
- Chairman's Allowance – All agreed that this should be retained at £100.
- Courses – All agreed that this should remain at £450 to cover CILCA portfolio based training costs £250 and new Councillor Training
- Audit Fees – All councillors agreed that this remain at £650 current market value being charged by the external auditors.
- Bank Charges – No allocation – zero - All Cllrs agreed with the proposal that this area need not be financed in this financial year.

The total precept for Administration was proposed and accepted as an increase from £14,880 2020/21 to £15,383 for 2021/22.

MAINTENANCE AND SUNDRIES

- Joint Burial Ground – it was agreed to set the Joint Burial Committees precept at last year's rate of £640
- Churchyard – Councillors agreed to accept a precept of £8000 to cover planned maintenance .

- Grounds Maintenance– Councillors agreed to accept the Grounds and Gardens request for a precept of 11a) Zero as the cost to fell Lombardi Poplars was paid out in 2020/21
- (a) QEII – no projected spend in 2021/22 – 0 ZERO
- (b) Vale Gardens routine maintenance contract to remain at £4000
- (c) Other maintenance – further work is required to pay for the additional wall repairs to Vale Gardens £1000, £300 Crimson Maple Tree Replacement
- War Memorial – Allocation of £1000 for the professional cleaning and two wreaths for Remembrance Events in the Parish
- Bus Shelter - £0 allocation
- Bench Audit – An allocation of £1000 following the decision to introduce a Memorial Bench Policy and separate maintenance budget £1000 per annum
- Xmas – It was agreed to keep this cost centre to £2500 funding the electricity costs, and annual ongoing repairs, maintenance, putting up and taking down decorations.
- Grants and donations - agreed by all Councillors that this should continue at £4000
- Lengthsman – it was resolved that taking into account the reducing contribution from RVBC Concurrent Grant that this cost should be set at £3000
- SPID purchase and maintenance – Speeding problems have persisted however the Parish Council had provisionally allocated £4000 to invest in SPIDS in 2020/21. They made a decision not to do this. No allocation made for 2021/22
- CCTV – Given the persistent problems of ASB in the area it was agreed a one off allocation of £10,000 should be allocated for capital investment in a more effective system
- Community Projects – A number of important community projects carried out in 2020/21 Sustainable Christmas Tree, Vale Community Garden, Planters on King Street, Replanting Scheme, upgrading the x street lighting. It was agreed an allocation of £10,000 should remain for 2021/22.
- Any excess costings will be taken from reserves.

The total precept for Maintenance and Sundries was proposed and accepted at £45,440 for 2021/22 an increase of £2000 from the 2020/21 figure of £43,440.

It was resolved that the total precept for the financial year 2020/21 would be set at £60,823 compared to £58,320 for 2021/22. This is an increase of 4.29% over the previous year.

The Tax Base for 2021/22 is 1758

2017/18 tax base = 1543
 2018/19 tax base = 1627
 2019/20 tax base = 1699
 2020/21 tax base = 1745

Following approval of the minutes of this meeting by the Parish Council, the Clerk will forward the precept figure to RVBC.

4. PLANNING VARIATION APPLICATION 5 GEORGE STREET WHALLEY 3/2020/0509 - PLANNING OFFICER: STEPHEN KILMARTIN

Variation of condition 1 (opening hours) of application 3/2020/0509.

At present, 'Taste Buds' at 1 George Street has a licence to sell alcohol until 00.00 hours Mon to Sat but presently does not exercise this option.

'Deux Amis' at 5, George Street is seeking to extend it's opening to 00.00 hours Thurs to Sat. There is a potential for further units in what was formerly Maureen Cookson to follow suit in the future.

George Street is RESIDENTIAL

Whalley, currently, has a Cumulative Impact Policy directed towards licensing due to the anti-social behaviour, particularly at weekends.

To permit Deux Amis a licence extension to 00.00 hours would send the wrong message and let down local residents.

Under present guidelines a licence remains with the premises in perpetuity and the social morality of future licence holders cannot be guaranteed, as happened at Brady's in Whalley (also in a residential area).

Whalley Parish Council therefore recommends a closing time of 22.00 hours for the premises of 5, George Street.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

Signed: Date: