

PATCHWAY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance Committee held on 6 December 2011 at Callicroft House, Rodway Road, Patchway

Present: Cllr. E. Gordon JP (in the Chair)
M. Grotzke
P. Cottrell
S. Scott
K. Walker
D. Tiley
A. Alsop

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Thorne, Mills and Moore.

2. Declarations of Interest

The Chairman asked any members having an interest in a matter to be discussed in the meeting to declare it at the appropriate time.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 November were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

a) Patchway Community Centre

The Committee noted that a successful meeting had been held in November with Patchway Community Association and the Day Centre for the Elderly (Casson Centre) and that other meetings with the architect and solicitor were planned for the new year. A letter from the Association's Chairman had been received noting that they would be willing to share a solicitor to oversee any legal matters but reserved the right to seek their own legal advice if necessary. The Committee agreed to proceed on this basis.

b) Sheltered Housing

The Clerk was asked to remind Councillors of the meeting with Merlin on 9 December at 3 p.m.

- c) Coniston Community Association
The Clerk was asked to suggest to the Association that they should monitor the office use of electricity to ensure that the rent charged was sufficient to cover the running costs of the offices.

5. Current financial position

The Committee noted that the bank balances at today's date were:

Current account:	£1,000.00
Business Reserve account:	£230,120.06

6. Monthly summary of expenditure

The Committee noted the summary of expenditure for the month of November.

7. Grant applications

It was unanimously agreed to look at all grant applications as emergencies as all local groups were in financial need. It was also agreed that all groups must have a letter saying that the cut-off point for grants from 2012 would be the end of October.

The following grant applications were agreed:

Patchway Conservation Group	£1,000
Patchway Twinning Association	£500
Patchway Day Centre for the Elderly	£700
Stoke Lodge Neighbourhood Watch	£300
Patchway People Newsletter	£2,500
Patchway Watercolourists	£550

Cllr. Grotzke declared his interest in the watercolour group.

8. Budget for 2012-13

The Committee discussed a draft budget under the Establishment, Council Buildings maintenance, Burials, Community Centres, Youth & Community and Grants to local organisations sections, although some headings were left for further consideration.

The Committee considered the budgets for Parks & Playing fields, Allotments, Open Spaces and Street Furniture proposed by other committees and made some alterations.

This draft budget would be considered further at the next meeting with a view to presentation to the January Council meeting.

9. Other financial or urgent matters

a) Housing Receipts money

Cllr. Scott reported that he had spoken to the Heads of both Coniston and Callicroft Schools and offered the sum of £2,000 to each from the Housing Receipts money towards a project in the school which would benefit the community. Coniston had proposed the upgrading of a stairway with mounted photographs of aspects of the school day.

Callicroft was still considering a project.

The Finance Committee agreed full support for this decision by the District Councillors for this allocation of funds and appreciated being consulted.

b) Next Agenda

Councillors asked for the following items to be on the next agenda:
Outdoor Fitness Equipment for Scott Park; Review of Hiring Charges.

c) Pretoria Road Allotments

The allotments society had asked if the agreed grant for concrete paths for the next financial year could be made available as soon as possible to enable the raised beds to be constructed over the winter period for use in the spring by disabled gardeners. The Committee noted that this cost would be £1,870 and agreed to take this amount from this year's Parks Budget and make a grant to the allotment society.

d) Bus shelter in Durban Road

Cllr. Cottrell asked if the Planning & Transport Committee could look again at improving the appearance of the shelter near the junction with Bradley Road.

e) Travel expenses and training costs for Councillors

It was confirmed that Councillors wishing to attend training courses

should book these through the Clerk if they wished to reclaim their travel expenses or training costs.

10. Date of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 3 January and provision was made for an extra meeting for budget discussion if necessary on Thursday 5 January.