

PATCHWAY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance Committee held on 4 December 2012 at Callicroft House, Rodway Road, Patchway

Present: Cllr. C. Mills (in the Chair)
S. Scott
E. Gordon
P. Cottrell
Mrs E. Orpen
K. Walker
D. Tiley

In attendance: Mrs L. Hamid
Mr. M. Winter

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Grotzke and Alsop.
It was agreed that apologies should only be recorded from committee members.

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 6 November were agreed as a correct record, proposed Cllr. Orpen, seconded Cllr. Scott, and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising

a) Responsible dog owners scheme

The Committee was pleased to hear that Green Dog Walkers schemes were already operating in several areas of South Gloucestershire and that the officer dealing with these schemes was happy to talk to the Council about starting one in Patchway. It was agreed to refer this matter to the Parks & Open Spaces Committee to progress.

- b) Signs
The Clerk had obtained prices for replacing old signage for Scott Park and The Tumps and it was agreed to order these at a cost of £350. The proposal to erect new Keep Patchway Tidy signs was referred to the Parks & Open Spaces Committee.
- c) Scott Park Car Park Repairs
The Committee noted the Parks & Open Spaces Committee had agreed to give the contract to repair the potholes to South Gloucestershire Council who had recommended a superior specification for the work to the other contractors. The drain work would be carried out before the tarmac repairs were started.
- d) Southern Brooks Community Partnership
It was noted that SBCP representatives had spoken at the Council meeting to report on their current youth and community work and that a request would be made for the Council to agree to give a three year service level agreement to SBCP to ensure their financial sustainability. The Committee had before it an application for the current funding for community development, youth outreach and centre based youth work to be increased by 3% in the next financial year with an additional amount of £1,500 to run an exercise class recommended by GPs to increase the fitness of local people.
It was agreed that this increase in funding would be supported although a final decision on the budget would not be taken until January and it was agreed to meet with SBCP in January to discuss two-year funding as it was not felt appropriate to commit the Council to expenditure beyond the election in 2015.
The Clerk declared her interest as a Trustee of Southern Brooks.
- e) Racist Incident at The Parade
It was agreed to request an update from the Police.

5. Current financial position

The Committee noted the financial position at today's date:

Business Reserve a/c	£237,443.54
Current a/c	£1,000.00
New deposit a/c	£25,000.00

6. Monthly summary of expenditure

The Committee noted and agreed the summary of expenditure for the month of November and also the income and expenditure accounts for the same period.

7. Grant applications

An application for a grant from Four Towns & Vale Link Community Transport had been received towards the cost of purchasing a used 16 seater minibus. The Committee agreed unanimously that the amount of £8,000 which had been budgeted in the Transport Budget should be made to this organisation.

8. Consideration of Council's budget for 2013-14

The Committee discussed the budget for the next financial year and agreed draft figures which would be considered again at the next meeting when some missing information had been obtained. This included information from the police and Merlin on the cost of replacement of CCTV cameras and information from the Burial Committee on the precept and other cemetery costs.

The Committee noted advice from NALC that local councils should not set their Precept until January or early February when information from central government on the introduction of new regulations governing localising Council Tax Support had been clarified.

9. Other financial & urgent matters

- a) The Committee noted that the Parks Committee had decided to purchase a used Ransomes ride-on cylinder mower at a cost of £16,000 from their budget for this financial year.
- b) Mark King (Street Care Manager) had offered dates to meet Councillors to discuss traffic issues in Coniston Road but the Committee suggested that a date in January would be preferable to suit Councillors' convenience.
- c) The Committee was in agreement with printing Town Council News on the back page of Patchway People rather than as an insert which would save the Council money and support the newsletter. It was noted that Town Council News was purely factual and non-political.

- d) The Committee noted that the ALCA subscription for 2013-14 was estimated to be £976.05. This year it had been £1,152.83
- e) The Committee noted that, based on the number of Council employees, the date for auto enrolment of the Local Government Pension Scheme for all staff would be 1 April 2017.
- f) The Clerk would make another attempt to collect rent owing by football clubs for matches played last season.

10. Date of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 8 January at 7.30 p.m.