

PATCHWAY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance Committee held on 2 April 2013 at Callicroft House, Rodway Road, Patchway

Present: Cllr. C. Mills (in the Chair)
M. Grotzke
P. Cottrell
S. Scott
K. Walker
A. Alsop

In attendance: Mrs L. Hamid

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Mrs E. Orpen and Tiley.
No apologies were received from Cllr. Moore.
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

With the addition of Cllr. Scott to the list of those present, the minutes of the meeting held on 5 March were agreed as a correct record, proposed Cllr. Scott, seconded Cllr. Cottrell, and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising

a) Renewal of glazing for bus shelter

The glazing panels had been delivered and would be fitted shortly.

b) Joint Burial Committee

Advice from ALCA had been sent to both Patchway and Almondsbury Councils on the operation of the committee. The Chairman was speaking to another council which had previously had similar experience of a joint committee between two councils.

c) New Homes Bonus

The Clerk reported that SGC had informed her that a decision on the perimeter path for Scott Park had been deferred until the May meeting of the Area Forum. It was agreed that a reduced amount would be acceptable.

5. Current financial position

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

Business Reserve a/c	£104,102.88
Current a/c	£9,316.27
Savings Bond	£25,000.00

The Committee agreed to increase the amount in the Savings Bond to £50,000.

6. Monthly summary of expenditure

The Committee noted and agreed the summary of expenditure for the month of March and also the income and expenditure accounts for the same period. The Committee noted that the balance as per books at the end of the financial year had been £126,002.49. It was agreed to review the financial situation at the next meeting when the first half of the Precept would have been received.

7. Blakeney Road Allotment improvements

The Clerk reported on a meeting she had had with the officers of the Allotment Association concerning an overspend of their project to install a portable allotment hut for the use of members and connect this to main services. The Association had raised £13,000 in grants but due to increased costs the total expenditure would exceed this amount by £11,000.

It was suggested that the Council could pay the outstanding bill for groundworks in the short term. The Association would then give the Council the balance of its funds and any other funds which they could raise from other sources. The Council could consider making a grant to the Association to offset any shortfall.

In view of the large sum involved, it was agreed that the Chairman should meet urgently with representatives of the Association and report to the Council at its next meeting.

8. Other financial & urgent matters

a) Patchway Youth Centre

The Committee noted that Southern Brooks Community Partnership had signed the lease for the Centre with SGC and instructed a building survey with funding secured from the Social Investment Bank. Some funding for repairs was being provided by SGC and other funding for running youth work sessions was being applied for with support from Patchway TC. Consultation with young people was being carried out so that their views could be presented to SGC.

The Committee agreed that they would like to meet representatives of the young people so that the Council could support them in their request for funding. The Committee also agreed that, in agreement with SGC, the Town Council could commission capital improvements to ensure the maximum amount of work could be carried out by the grant funding.

It was agreed that the Youth Committee would meet at 6 pm on 17 April.

b) Junior Youth Provision

The Committee agreed to release the final payment of £1,300 to Southern Brooks Community Partnership to finance two sessions per week of youth work for 8-12 years up to the end of March. The report on this work would be circulated to all Councillors.

c) Rent owed by football clubs

The Committee was pleased to note progress with two of the three clubs owing money for pitch hire:

Almondsbury Town FC had agreed on 22 March to pay half the debt by the end of the month and half at the end of April. The amount owing is £630.

Rolls Royce FC had agreed in February to pay £50 per month and the first payment has been received. The amount owing is £571. This Club is no longer in existence.

Bailey Sports FC had received a solicitor's letter to the Secretary. As no response has been received, the solicitor is now writing to the Chairman. The amount outstanding is £315.

d) Dreamscheme Litter Pick

The Committee was pleased to see a report and photographs of the young people who spent a day through the Dreamscheme collecting litter in Patchway, sponsored by McDonalds and Asda. The groundstaff had also assisted in the day and all volunteers had enjoyed a sandwich lunch at Coniston Community Centre paid for by the Town Council.

e) End of season maintenance of football pitches

The Committee agreed, with the support of the Chairman of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee, that work to aerate, top dress and reseed the four football pitches should be carried out by Ecosolve Ltd., which was the cheapest supplier, at the end of the football season. It was also agreed that investigations should be made for next year into purchasing second-hand equipment for this work and possibly sharing the equipment with a neighbouring council.

f) Council Tax

The Committee was pleased to note that Patchway was among the lowest of all the local councils in SG in its charge on Council Tax for the new financial year.

9. Date of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 7 May at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting would be preceded by a meeting with the BMX Club at 6.30 p.m. to discuss their plans to install floodlighting to the track.