

PATCHWAY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance Committee held on 7 May 2013 at Callicroft House, Rodway Road, Patchway

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

In attendance: Mrs L. Hamid
Mr. M. Winter
Mr & Mrs Trevascus, Bristol BMX Club

1. Bristol BMX Club

The Chairman welcomed Mr & Mrs Trevascus from the BMX Club to discuss their plans for developing the track at Waterside Drive.

The Club would like to install electricity and floodlighting so that they can use the track on Wednesday nights from 6-9 p.m. from April to September – 22 weeks of the year.

It was pointed out that lighting technology had improved so much in the last ten years that the floodlights would be focussed on the track and not cause light pollution to adjacent residential properties. It would be a benefit to the residents if it was not necessary to use a noisy generator for cooking.

Cllr. Alsop had been advising the Club and had obtained costings: £5,800 for the supply of electricity and the necessary equipment. This did not include the cost for installation.

It was agreed by the Committee that the Council would need to see that the project met the electrical regulations. Cllr. Alsop would supply a copy of the independent assessment, report and plans showing the extent of light overspill.

The Committee appreciated that the Club did not wish to apply for Planning Permission until they were sure that the Town Council, as landowner, would not object to the application.

Mr. Trevascus stated that Rob Stirzaker of the SGC Sports Development Section, was very supportive of the Club's wish to upgrade its facilities. This improvement was part of the Strategic Sports Plan which was being drawn up by Patchway Community Sports Association.

The Chairman thanked Mr & Mrs Trevascus very much for their attendance and they then left the meeting.

The Committee agreed that when the required information had been received, this matter would be discussed by the Council.

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Moore.
It was agreed that apologies should only be recorded from committee members.

3. 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. Cllr. Mills noted that he was no longer the Chairman of the Pretoria Road Allotment Society.

The Chairman stated that when there was a conflict of interest in any future meeting he would ask the person to leave the meeting during discussion and voting.

4. Minutes

With the addition of Cllr. Scott to the list of those present, the minutes of the meeting held on 2 April were agreed as a correct record, proposed Cllr. Cottrell seconded Cllr. Orpen, and signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters arising

- a) Renewal of glazing for bus shelter
The glazing panels had been delivered and would be fitted shortly.

- b) Joint Burial Committee
It was noted that the next meeting of this committee had been changed from 9th to 16th May to avoid a clash with the Annual Town Meeting.
- c) New Homes Bonus
It was noted 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.
- d) Dreamscheme Litter Pick
The Clerk was asked to enquire whether the Dreamscheme could be involved in an annual Keep Patchway Tidy day. McDonald's were apparently keep to sponsor such an event.

6. Current financial position

The Committee noted that the first half of the Precept had been received and that the financial position at today's date was:

Business Reserve a/c	£377,878.44
Current a/c	£1,000.00
Savings Bond	£25,000.00

The Committee agreed to increase the amount in the Savings Bond to £45,000.

7. Monthly summary of expenditure

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

The Committee noted that the payment of £1,300 for youth work to Southern Brooks Community Partnership had been due in the last financial year but not paid until April. It was agreed to transfer this sum from Contingencies to the Youth Work budget to cover this expenditure.

It was noted that in the new financial sheets, the amounts paid for individual grants had been left blank so that a decision on each application would be taken on merit.

8. Grant applications

Community Associations

It was agreed unanimously that in lieu of grants to the two community centres, the Council would pay actual bills up to the agreed level of grant. This would enable the Council to reclaim VAT on this expenditure. The Clerk was asked to notify the community associations of this decision.

The following grants were agreed to local organisations:

Stokes Singers:	£200
Patchway Minibus:	£750
Patchway Festival:	£2,500

(The Clerk left the room during discussion of the Festival grant)

9. Blakeney Road Allotments

The Chairman reported back on a meeting he and the Clerk had held with the Chairman and Treasurer of the allotments.

The Committee noted that the association had raised a substantial amount but had overspent the budget through the purchase of a container to be used as a community room. It was agreed that the association needed financial training to ensure that such a situation did not occur again and that the committee realised that the ongoing maintenance of the community room would rest with them.

It was agreed to set up a meeting of the committee with members of the Finance Committee to discuss a payment plan and that the Council would not agree to pay any money to the contractor until this had been held.

10. Other financial & urgent matters

a) ID badges

It was agreed to remind Councillors that ID badges could be made for them to wear as they went about Patchway on Council business.

b) Almondsbury Town FC

The Committee was pleased to note that the overdue amount had been paid in full.

c) Sports Bursary Fund

A letter from Patchway Community College was noted concerning the

renewed efforts being made to access these funds.

d) CCTV cameras at The Parade

The Committee was pleased to hear that Merlin Housing had offered to take over the monitoring and maintenance of the Council's cameras at The Parade and to merge them into the new system they were installing in the Parade area.

e) Meeting with Streetcare

Cllr. Alsop had attended the briefing at Kingswood on the changes to highway and street scene services planned by SGC from April 2014 and brought plans and information which were shared with the Committee. The Chairman reminded Members that Mark King would be attending the Council Office to discuss the effect on Patchway of these changes on Thursday 16 May at 2 p.m. and urged all Councillors to attend.

11. Date of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 4 June at 7.30 p.m.