

PATCHWAY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance Committee held on 4 February 2014 at Callicroft House, Rodway Road, Patchway

Present: Cllrs. C. Mills (in the Chair)
M. Grotzke
Mrs E. Orpen
P. Cottrell
S. Scott
M. Greensword
K. Walker
E. Gordon

In attendance: Mrs L. Hamid
Miss M. Crump

1. Welcome & Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Alsop.

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. When there was a conflict of interest in a meeting the person would be asked to leave the meeting during discussion and voting.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 January were proposed by Cllr. Scott, seconded by Cllr. Orpen, agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

a) Expiry of 12 month savings bond

The Committee noted that the Council's £25,000 savings bond expired in April and that the bank was not offering new bonds at present. It was noted that the options were very poor at present and it was agreed to look for better options in April.

- b) Surfacing drives in Hempton Lane
 A reply from SGC that they were unable to assist with funding this project was noted. The Committee agreed, therefore, to proceed with the scheme to contribute not more than £4,095, which was half the cost of constructing three parking strips including dropped kerbs. The balance would be paid by Merlin Housing Society.
- c) Patchway Community Composting Site payment
 The Committee noted a letter from SGC that they would no longer require sub-contracted labour for services in maintaining the composting site, which had closed at the end of December. SGC would be settling the invoice from 1.4.12 up to 31.12.13. which amounted to £4,381.40.
- d) Street Scene services
 The Committee accepted notes on the new arrangements as previously agreed from 1 April 2014 for emptying dog bins, cutting verges and maintaining hanging baskets, which had been circulated. It was agreed to remind the public of the Green Dog Walking Scheme through Patchway People.
- e) Community Governance Review Meeting
 The Committee noted that SGC had arranged a meeting between 3 members of the Town Council and the 3 Stoke Lodge Councillors to discuss transfer arrangements of Stoke Lodge and Patchway Common on 20 February at 1.30 p.m. Councillors were concerned that holding a meeting in Patchway was not acceptable to Stoke Lodge Councillors, despite their agreement at the last meeting, and that it had had to be rescheduled in Yate. It was noted that the Town Council's request that its boundaries should be changed to become coterminous with the boundary of Patchway Ward would be discussed by the SGC Regulatory Committee in March.
- f) Patchway Youth Centre
 The Committee noted information from Southern Brooks Community Partnership that the pre-school group would be moving into the Youth Centre over the February half-term holiday so the Council could cease its payments to support the shortfall from February.

5. Current financial position

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

Current a/c	£1,000.00
Business Reserve a/c	£257,372.07
Savings Bond	£25,000.00

6. Monthly summary of expenditure

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

It was noted that the cost of electricity and gas at Patchway Common pavilion had increased recently due to additional use of the building. It was agreed to review rents to cover these costs.

7. Other financial or urgent matters

a) Collection of Green Waste

The Committee discussed the changes which SGC was making to the collection of green waste from April 2014 in order to reduce costs.

b) Request for funding from Patchway Community Sports Association

The Committee noted a funding application from this group, following a request made by its Chairman, Roger Loveridge, at the Parks Committee. Due to funding cuts, the SGC officer who had supported this group for several years, Rob Stirzaker, was no longer able to fulfil this role. The group was requesting £1,000 to enable it to pay a co-ordinator for 2 hours a week to develop the Patchway Strategic Sports Vision, which had been supported by the Parks & Open Spaces Committee. This vision was for updated indoor and outdoor sporting facilities to be provided in Patchway at a time when money was being made available for such facilities in the new neighbourhoods surrounding the area. Councillors agreed that it was important to develop sports facilities in Patchway and that this application should be supported.

In view of the late stage of the financial year, it was proposed that £250 should be granted now and £750 after April so that a co-ordinator could be appointed as soon as possible, with a request that a quarterly report from the Association's meetings (minutes) should be supplied to the Council for information. This was proposed by Cllr Mills, seconded by Cllr. Scott and unanimously agreed.

It was noted that there was no Council representative on the Community Sports Association since the resignation of Cllr. Moore and Cllr. Walker agreed to take on this role.

c) Patchway Fire Station

An email had been received from Cllr. Terry Walker, Chairman of the Avon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Service, offering a further meeting with the Council to discuss the timetable for the Fire Station's move to a new site. The Committee would be pleased to support such a meeting.

- d) Patchway Community Association
Cllr. Cottrell queried the decision taken by the Council to pursue the development of a town centre for Patchway to connect the old and new settlements which would include moving the community centre and council offices to Highwood Road. Cllr. Orpen declared her interest as a Trustee of the Community Association and took no part in the discussion. The Chairman pointed out that this decision was taken unanimously by the Council in December following a presentation on screen by two consultants and that the minutes were confirmed in January.
Cllr. Cottrell stated that he would not be standing as a representative of the Town Council on the Community Association committee at the Annual Meeting.
- e) Meeting with Almondsbury Parish Council
It was agreed to meet with Almondsbury to discuss the joint management of the cemetery. Three dates in the following week had been suggested and the Clerk would inform the representatives when the date was confirmed.
- f) Meeting with the major developer of Filton Airfield
The Committee noted that SGC planning officers had suggested that the Council should meet before the end of February with Bridgehouse Capital, which had purchased the airfield from BA Systems. Attempts were being made to arrange a meeting and the Clerk would keep Councillors informed if any date was set.
- g) Cribbs Patchway New Development
The Committee noted that the next joint meeting on Cribbs Patchway New Development with SGC, Filton and Almondsbury would be held on Tuesday 25 February, time to be advised. The consultation on this development closed on 28 February.

8. Date of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 4 March 2014 at 7.30 p.m.