

PATCHWAY TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Finance Committee held on 6 May 2014 at
Callicroft House, Rodway Road, Patchway**

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

In attendance: Mrs L. Hamid
Mr. B. Wallace

1. Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

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 1 April were proposed by Cllr. Scott seconded by Cllr. Cottrell, agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

a) Patchway Community Centre

Cllr. Scott reported that a meeting with officers had been held and reported to Council. Another meeting had been held before the Finance Committee at which the Vision for the Town Centre had been presented and supported by the Community Association representatives.

- b) Community Governance Review
It was noted that a meeting would be held with SGC on Tuesday 13 May to discuss Stoke Lodge.
- c) Safer & Stronger Group
The Committee noted that the Safer & Stronger Group had submitted an application to SGC for funding for a seating area on the grass at the junction of Highwood and Callicroft Roads.

5. Current financial position

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

Current a/c	£3,395.00
Business Reserve a/c	£485,844.74

The Savings Bond had now matured and the amount of £25,000 had been transferred into the Business Reserve account.

The Committee noted that the first half of the Precept payment had been received.

6. 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 amounts paid for gas and electricity supplies to Total Gas and Power were excessive and agreed to give the required 90 days' notice to change supplier.

It was agreed to check the mobile phone contract to see if a better deal could be obtained, possibly from the same supplier as the office broadband connection.

It was agreed to record separately the cost of supplying and servicing a Eurobin for dog waste and a skip for litter in Scott Park, costs which were previously covered by SGC.

7. Grants

The Committee agreed the following grants for this financial year, proposed Cllr. Walker, seconded Cllr. Alsop:

Patchway Festival	£3,000
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Southern Brooks Community Partnership: community development work	£20,500
Southern Brooks Community Partnership: youth work and junior youth work	£27,400
Patchway Community Association	£12,000
Coniston Community Association	£6,000

It was agreed to continue the arrangement followed last year whereby invoices were paid for goods purchased by the community associations to the net value of the grants.

West of England MS Therapy Centre	£300
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Two grant applications were deferred for further information:

Patchway Minibus Committee: The Committee asked for the request to be divided into funds required for running costs and funds for purchasing a new bus.

Patchway Centre Pre-School & Tots: The Committee asked if the groundstaff would have capacity to build the decking required for disabled children's access.

8. Other financial or urgent matters

a) Bus Shelters

A response from SGC was awaited on improving the protection for passengers waiting at various shelters which were open on one side to the elements by installing an additional Perspex panel or reversing the shelter.

b) Proposal to government

It was agreed to support a proposal made by Sevenoaks Town Council under the Sustainable Communities Act "that the government take the necessary action to allow a percentage of Business Rates (possibly 5%) to be paid direct to Parish and Town Councils for the benefit of local economic growth."

c) Wessex Water

The Committee noted the Statutory Notice and land plan for the temporary overland pipe across the Council's land at Scott Park and Pretoria Allotments Site during sewer construction works in Coniston

Road.

- d) Consultants fees for Patchway Town Centre Vision
The Committee agreed to pay for additional work by Oxford Architects to prepare documents for SGC and display boards for public consultation. Also fees for George Grace of Town Centred of £1,500. These fees would be taken from the NHB grant for Rodway Road and would amount to £5,625 over the next few months. It was noted that it had been suggested that advice from a regeneration consultant would be useful but it was agreed not to proceed with this until after the public consultation on the Vision. It was noted that Cllr. Alsop's suggestion to construct student flats as part of this development had been well received by the consultants.

9. Date of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 3 June 2014 at 7.30 p.m.