

PATCHWAY TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Finance Committee held on 2 December 2014 at  
Callicroft House, Rodway Road, Patchway**

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

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

**1. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs E. Martin and K. Walker.

**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 October 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) Collaboration Business Plan for Patchway Town Centre  
The Committee noted that the Plan was being discussed by the Merlin Board the following week and an update would be brought to the next meeting.

- b) Paths in Scott Park  
The Committee noted an email from Highways Maintenance stating that the path work would be carried out in mid to late February. It was agreed that it would be cost-effective to complete the whole circuit if there were sufficient funds in the Parks budget to cover this.
- c) Football Club pitch fees  
The Deputy Clerk reported no further progress on the collection of outstanding pitch fees from last season.
- d) Playdays Pre-School Group  
The Committee noted that the group had not responded to the request for a meeting but that another organisation had contacted the Clerk wishing to restart a pre-school in January. This request had been referred to the Stoke Lodge Councillors.
- e) Financial Regulations  
It was agreed to discuss the new Regulations at the next meeting.
- f) Dust Mat contract  
It was noted that the Clerk had resolved this issue.
- g) Computer upgrade  
The Committee noted that the necessity for an upgrade had been overcome by other means.

## **5. Current financial position**

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

Current a/c	£650.00
Business Reserve a/c	£370,363.62
Capital Reserve a/c	£50,043.51

## **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. Other financial or urgent matters**

### **a) Councillors' Allowances**

Cllr. Gordon introduced a discussion on the reintroduction of Councillors' Allowances, noting that a mandate had to be obtained from SGC before allowances were paid. He proposed that an allowance would encourage local people to participate in local government and should be considered. At present Councillors could claim travel expenses for attending meetings outside Patchway but not within the town. The Council had previously agreed to pay child-care expenses to enable attendance at Council meetings.

Cllr. Mills stated that at this present time when the Council would have to make up the deficit caused by the split with Stoke Lodge, it would not be desirable to increase expenditure in this way.

After discussion, Cllr. Gordon proposed that in order to attract broader participation that the Council should acquire a mandate to allow it to pay Allowances at a future date. There was no seconder for the proposal.

### **b) Bus Shelters**

The Clerk had received information from SGC that they had no budget to repair or maintain shelters, even those which they had installed. It was agreed, therefore, that the Council should maintain its budget for this item in the proposals for 2015-16.

## **8. Preliminary budget discussions**

Cllr. Alsop left the meeting for discussion of this item. It was noted that the Clerk and Groundsmen had drawn up costings for Patchway to continue to maintain the football pitch, open spaces and verges in Stoke Lodge and The Common in the next financial year at the request of Cllr. Hopkinson.

The Committee discussed the proposed expenditure recommended by the Parks & Open Spaces Committee and the Planning & Transport Committee. It then considered other expenditure for the next financial year, taking into consideration information provided by the Finance Officer of SGC on the effect on Patchway's income of the split with Stoke Lodge. It was agreed to continue discussions at the January meeting when the Clerk could accurately predict the end of year balances.

## **9. Date of next meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 6 January 2015 at 7.30 p.m.