

PATCHWAY TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Finance Committee held on 5 July 2016 at
Callicroft House, Rodway Road, Patchway**

Present: Cllrs. Mrs E. Orpen (in the Chair)
Mrs M. Bathe-Taylor
P. Cottrell
J. Butler
R. Loveridge
E. Gordon
K. Dando

In attendance: Mrs L. Hamid, Mr. M. Fortet
Mrs C. Wood, SBCP
Cllr. K. Walker, SG Councillor

1. Family Support Work by SBCP

Corrina Wood spoke to the Committee by invitation and explained that SBCP had lost its Lottery funding and SGC funding for Family Support Work. 3 staff members were leaving during this month and, despite many positive comments from service users which had been passed to SGC, the cancellation of funding had been confirmed. The application to Patchway TC was to fund a family support worker for one day per week with admin support and this would enable 3-4 families to be supported at any one time.

Corrina answered questions from Councillors and the Chairman thanked her for her presentation.

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Martin and Mills.

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

4. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7 June were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, proposed Cllr. Gordon, seconded Cllr. Butler. There were no matters arising from the minutes which were not listed on the agenda.

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	£312,791.48
Capital Reserve a/c	£50,078.42

6. Monthly summary of expenditure

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

7. Member funding of grant applications

Cllr. Walker attended the meeting by invitation for discussion of this item. It was noted that SGC were currently consulting on a new system for grant allocations which would involve Local Members of SGC taking decisions up to an allocated amount (not yet determined) on grant applications made in their Ward. This would replace the previous system of decisions taken by all SG Councillors at Area Forum meetings.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to put forward the following comments to SGC:

- That in the case (as in Patchway) where there were more than one Councillor representing a Ward, that it would be advantageous to the community for the Councillors to work together and pool their individual allocations;
- That comments on local applications should be requested from the Parish or Town Council in whose area the applicant was based, in the same way that comments were invited on planning applications;
- That the focus on extra funding for Priority Neighbourhoods should be continued.

8. Front cutting mower

This item had been added to the agenda.

There was a discussion on purchasing a front deck mower to assist in the speedy cutting of the highway verges. The groundsmen had recommended a Ransomes mower which was used by SGC for the grass cutting they carried out. The matter had already been discussed by the Parks & Open Spaces Committee but they had queried the cost of a one-year-old mower from TH White at £13,950. The matter before the Finance Committee was whether to purchase the mower on a 0% finance package of £5,000 deposit and 24 payments of £373.

It was proposed by Cllr. Gordon, seconded Cllr. Dando that the Council should purchase the machine over 1 year, but after discussion, it was agreed to defer the vote until the Council meeting so that the Clerk could gather additional information on alternatives and so that any Councillor who wished could see the cutting of the verges with the existing mower which had side and base cutting decks and understand the difficulty this caused the groundsmen.

9. Grant applications

The Committee agreed the following grant applications as listed on the agenda:

SBCP Family Support Worker £7,000

A one-off payment to enable additional grants to be sourced, to be taken from contingencies. Proposed Cllr. Dando, seconded Cllr. Gordon and agreed by 3-2 votes.

Four Towns Play Association £5,000

Proposed Cllr. Dando, seconded Cllr. Loveridge and agreed unanimously.

Patchway, Filton & the Stokes Volunteer Centre £1,000

Proposed Cllr. Dando, seconded Cllr. Loveridge and agreed unanimously.

Patchway Minibus Committee £750

Proposed Cllr. Dando, seconded Cllr. Bathe-Taylor and agreed unanimously.

Wednesday Luncheon Club £800

Proposed Cllr. Dando, seconded Cllr. Gordon and agreed unanimously.

Cllr. Orpen declared her pecuniary interest in this application and left the room during discussion and voting.

10. Other financial or urgent matters

a) Bus service 625

The Committee noted that 4 Towns & Vale Link Community Transport was proposing to give up the contract with SGC to operate this service, which ran through Patchway to Asda as part of its route, as it was losing money.

It was agreed to invite the Director of 4T&VL, Nigel Davis, to attend the next meeting of the Planning & Transport Committee to talk about the possibility of an alternative service for Patchway.

11. Arrangements for financial matters arising during the August recess

It was agreed that the normal procedure would be followed that should an emergency decision need to be taken during August that it would be referred to the Chairman. If the Chairman considered it necessary to consult with other Councillors, a meeting of the Finance Committee would be called.

12. Date of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 6 September 2016.