

PATCHWAY TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Finance Committee held on 6 December 2016 at
Callicroft House, Rodway Road, Patchway**

Present: Cllrs. Mrs E. Orpen (in the Chair)
Mrs M. Bathe-Taylor
S. Scott
Mrs E. Martin
J. Butler
R. Loveridge
E. Gordon (substitute for Cllr. Mills)
P. Cottrell
Mrs R. Messenger

In attendance: Mrs L. Hamid, Mr. M. Fortet

1. Apologies

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

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.

Cllrs. Orpen and Martin declared their interest in Patchway Twinning Association and said they would leave the room during discussion of their grant application.

3. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8 November were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, proposed Cllr. Butler, seconded Cllr. Martin.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

a) Photocopier

It was noted that the new photocopier had been delivered as agreed.

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	£339,049.23
Capital Reserve a/c	£50,130.81

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. Grant applications

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

a) Patchway Watercolourists

A grant of £500 was agreed for this group, proposed Cllr. Loveridge, seconded Cllr. Martin.

b) Bristol BMX Club

It was noted that this grant was no longer required as funding had been obtained by sponsorship.

c) Four Towns & Vale Link Community Transport

The amount budgeted for this group of £6,000 was agreed, proposed by Cllr. Gordon seconded by Cllr. Martin. It was agreed to ask for a report including user numbers once a year.

8. Quotations for MUGA in Scott Park

The Committee noted that four quotations had been received on identical specifications to include the replacement of the cricket practice nets and the removal of the hard court.

One contractor was £70,000 higher than the others and one had failed to visit the site. The Committee agreed to disregard these two and concentrate on two similar quotations from Vica SL (£237,140) and S & C Slatter (£232,894). It was agreed that the Clerk would discuss the project with SGC Planning Department, raising the question of drainage, and would report back to the Council as soon as possible.

9. Discussion on budget for 2017-18

The Committee worked through the draft budgets discussed by the Parks & Open Spaces and the Planning & Transport Committees and discussed the expected expenditure on Establishment, Repairs & Maintenance, Burials, Community Centres, Youth & Community and Grants. The draft budget is attached to these minutes and, after consideration by the Council, would be discussed again at the January meeting when information would have been received from SGC.

The Committee agreed to ringfence the sum of £9,000 as a capital reserve for the Community Centre Development Fund and also the Scott Park Contingency of £15,000 for expenditure on a new pavilion.

The Committee noted the discussion at the last Council meeting on supporting the library service in Patchway to maintain its current opening hours which would cost £9,000 in the next financial year and £18,000 in 2018-19. It was agreed to recommend to Council that this should be included in the budget.

The Committee noted that SGC had requested a commitment to fund the library for at least two years to safeguard the employment of staff and this was agreed. It was also agreed to request the Council to take note of the section of the South Gloucestershire Compact, which was signed by Patchway Town Council in 2010, which states

“The Public Sector under takes to....offer contracts of 3 years or longer for service commissions in accordance with government guidelines in order to maximise the effectiveness of the delivery”.

It was agreed that this item should be on the Council Agenda.

The Committee agreed to consider an increase in allotment rents in October 2017 to take effect in October 2018.

10. Other financial or urgent matters

a) Celebration of 15 years of twinning with Gauting

The Committee noted that the Mayor of Gauting would be visiting Patchway with a group of residents in May. It was agreed to discuss Civic involvement in this visit at the January meeting.

b) Dinner for Councillors

The Chairman thanked those Councillors who had attended the dinner the previous week and hoped they had enjoyed the evening.

c) Sign from Britannia Public House

It was agreed to look at framing this sign for the future.

11. Date of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 3 January 2017.