

PATCHWAY TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Finance Committee held on 3 & 5 January 2017 at
Callicroft House, Rodway Road, Patchway**

Present: Cllrs. C. Mills (in the Chair)
Mrs E. Orpen
Mrs M. Bathe-Taylor
S. Scott
K. Dando
J. Butler
R. Loveridge
E. Gordon (3rd only)
P. Cottrell

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

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Mrs Martin.

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 6 December were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, proposed Cllr. Cllr. Orpen, seconded Cllr. Scott with an amendment to Minute 9 para 2 where the wording in the last line was changed from "on a new pavilion" to "towards any shortfall on Phase One".

4. Matters arising from the minutes

a) 3 year funding

The Committee noted that the Council had discussed the proposal that 3 year funding should be offered to larger organisations applying for grants as stated by the South Gloucestershire Compact, which was signed by Patchway Town Council in 2010. The Council had agreed that 3 year funding should apply to the support for the library service and that this should be considered for other organisations on a case by case basis as they applied for grants.

There was a discussion on whether, under Standing Orders, the decision of what grant was agreed for an applicant was taken by the Finance Committee or the Council. The Clerk would take legal advice and report back on this issue.

b) Multi-Use Games Area

The Committee noted that, on closer examination of the two lower quotations, the higher one had not quoted for the same specification of surface in the cricket nets as the lower quotation. It was, therefore, recommended that the contract, subject to planning, should be awarded to S & C Slatter. It was also noted that the Clerk had been in touch with the Planning Department and Merlin Housing for any comments or advice prior to the planning application being made. This report was noted by the Committee.

c) 15 years of twinning with Gauting

It was agreed to discuss the civic involvement with this visit from 17-21 May at the Council meeting.

5. Current financial position

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

Current a/c	£,794.44
Business Reserve a/c	£308,451.08
Capital Reserve a/c	£50,131.22

6. Monthly summary of expenditure

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

7. Discussion on revised budget for 2017-18

The Chairman explained that if the Council adopted the draft budget it would use all the Council's reserves and require an increase in the Precept of 8.9%. The Committee agreed that this would not be acceptable and noted the Chairman's proposals for a revised but which would use the reserves and require a 3% increase in the Precept.

Councillors were not happy to spend the Council's reserves and it was agreed, proposed Cllr. Dando seconded Cllr. Gordon that additional cuts should be made which would preserve the reserves at The Committee noted that the government grant paid by SGC was down this year by £8,000 and that the Council was carrying out additional duties due to cuts in SGC services.

The Chairman proposed a special budget meeting on Thursday 5 January at 7 pm to continue the discussion on budget cuts and this was agreed unanimously.

8. Special Budget Meeting held on 5 January

The Chairman explained the further reductions in the budget to achieve a 3% increase while retaining the Council's reserves.

Cllr. Scott asked what action our SG Councillors had taken to minimise the reduction in the grant made by SGC, bearing in mind that Patchway was a priority neighbourhood. Cllr. Dando said he had arranged for a meeting with officers about the loss of grant.

There was a discussion on the initial effect of the loss of Stoke Lodge on income which was now being made up by Charlton Hayes.

It was agreed to look at buying the new front cutting mower on credit over two years to minimise the expenditure in the first year.

Cllr. Dando pointed out that solar lights agreed for the footpath in Scott Park had not been installed and this would be referred to the Parks & Open Spaces Committee.

There was a discussion on request for £5,000 to be ring-fenced for any overspend on the MUGA and, after discussion, it was proposed by Cllr. Scott, seconded Cllr. Orpen and unanimously agreed that any additional funds required from this project should be taken from the general contingency.

It was pointed out that there was an error in the Community Centre funding as the balance of the £1 2,000 grant to Patchway CA would be paid to them at the end of the financial year.

All other figures were agreed as stated on the revised budget and accompanying notes to the accounts, which are attached to these minutes. Cllr. Orpen moved the adoption of the budget, seconded by Cllr. Scott and agreed unanimously by the Committee.

9. Date of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 7 February 2017.

E. Orpen
07/02/17