

PATCHWAY TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Finance Committee held on 9 January 2018 at
Callicroft House, Rodway Road, Patchway**

Present: Cllrs. Mrs E. Orpen (in the Chair)
Mrs M. Bathe-Taylor (substitute for Cllr. Martin)
K. Dando
R. Loveridge
K. Walker

In attendance: Cllr Cottrell
Cllr. E. Bathe-Taylor
Mrs L. Hamid, Mr. M. Fortet

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Butler and 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 5 December were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, proposed Cllr. M. Bathe-Taylor seconded Cllr. Loveridge.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

- a) Four Towns & Vale Link Community Transport
The Committee noted that this organisation had moved from Alveston to Frampton Cotterell.

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	£376,623.39

Capital Reserve a/c £50,139.13

6. Monthly summary of expenditure

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

7. Consideration of draft budget for 2018-19

Version 2 of the Draft Budget (on pink paper) was circulated and discussed and the following comments agreed:

- a) Any shortfall on the budget for the MUGA from the s106 grant should be taken from general contingencies up to £15,000.
- b) Enquiries should be made into reducing the cost of the Christmas lights by the use of solar panels, particularly noting that the Council wished to continue lights down the whole length of Charlton Boulevard next year.
- c) The agreed budget for grants was £16,000 not £20,000.

The Committee agreed to put forward the draft budget, which totalled £680,454 to the Council for adoption.

The Committee then considered Notes on Budget 2018-19, which was circulated and is attached to these Minutes. This showed that if the Precept was set at £600,730, which was no increase in the basic rate of council tax, and the Local Government Support Grant was £14,595, £65,129 of the balances would be used to cover the budget. This would leave a balance carried forward for the new financial year of £212,633. Councillors were pleased at this good financial position which would provide funds for future projects.

8. Other financial or urgent matters

- a) Vision for Patchway Town Centre
SGC had offered various dates for a presentation to Councillors on the proposals for the Town Centre discussed at the last Council meeting, and it was agreed that the best date for Councillors was Wednesday 24 January at 6.30 p.m. This would be a closed meeting as previously noted.
- b) Patchway Community Plan: residents' drop-in event
Councillors noted that the presence of a Councillor throughout this event had been requested by SBCP. The event was to be held at the Youth Centre on Tuesday 23 January from 3-7 p.m. The following Councillors agreed to be present: 3-4 Patrick/Roger; 4-5 Eve/Ken; 5-6 Keith; 6-7

Bathe-Taylors.

- c) Government Finance Settlement
Councillors were pleased to note that, as part of this Settlement, the Government had stated that the setting up of referendum principles for town and parish council would be deferred for 3 years provided that council tax increases were restrained.

- d) SGC rate of Council Tax
SGC had informed the Council that in addition to the 3% increase agreed by Government for the next three years to support care for older people, the Government had recently announced that councils could increase their basic rate of council by a further 2.99%. This would help SGC reduce reductions in service and will total an increase of £81.84 per year for a band D household.

- e) SG Member Awarded Funding
Cllr. Walker stated that there were still funds available for local groups to be claimed by the end of March and asked Councillors to pass this information to any groups they know of which were short of funds. It was agreed that any funds remaining could be claimed by the Town Council for local projects.

- f) Royal Garden Parties
Nominations were sought by ALCA for representatives to attend a Garden Party but it was later noted that nominations were for past service by Chairmen or Mayors. Cllr. Orpen did not wish to be nominated this year.

9. Date of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 6 February 2018.