

PATCHWAY TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Finance Committee held on 4 October 2016 at
Callicroft House, Rodway Road, Patchway**

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

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.

Cllr. Orpen declared her interest in Patchway Community Association and said she would leave the room during discussion of their grant application.

3. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6 September were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, proposed Cllr. Bathe-Taylor, seconded Cllr. Loveridge.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

a) Social Event

Cllr. Gordon proposed that a social event before Christmas would be good for personal relationships between Councillors. This was seconded by Cllr. Scott on the understanding that the event would be at

no cost to the Council. The Clerk was asked to contact Councillors on whether they would prefer Thursday 1 December or Friday 2 December at Basmati Restaurant in Rodway Road. Partners would be invited.

- b) Visit to MS Therapy Centre
Councillors were reminded to contact the Clerk if they would like to visit this Centre as only two Councillors had responded to date.
- c) Alterations to Chairman's Chain of Office
The Committee was pleased to see the additional names added to the chain and the pins added.

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	£466,388.55
Capital Reserve a/c	£50,127.88

It was noted that the second half of the Precept had been received.

6. Monthly summary of expenditure

The Committee noted and agreed the summary of expenditure for the month of September 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 Centre Pre-School and Tots Group
No further information received.
- b) South Gloucestershire Citizens' Advice Bureau
After discussion, it was agreed to make a grant to this group of £250.
- c) Patchway Community Association
After discussion, it was agreed to make a grant of £12,000 as and when they requested it.

- d) Southern Brooks Community Partnerships
This grant application was for the agreed amount of £20,000 for youth work and £20,500 for community work in Patchway to be paid. Cllr. Butler proposed and Cllr. Loveridge seconded a motion that before the grant was paid, the group's bank statement and a breakdown of how this money was to be spent should be received. Cllr. Scott proposed an amendment that, as long as this information was presented to the Council the following week, the grant should be paid. This amended motion was agreed by the Committee.

8. Referendum Principles for Local Councils

Information had been circulated to all Councillors on government proposals regarding council tax referendum principles for local councils, particularly larger councils such as Patchway.

The Chairman stated it was important for the Council to object as it was impossible for local councils to take on extra responsibilities from the district council unless they are able to fund it. In the case of Patchway, we had taken on the cutting of highway verges, provision of floral displays, emptying dog waste bins and disposing of litter as well as funding youth and community development work. All these responsibilities were previously carried out by South Gloucestershire Council.

The Committee supported the Chairman's statement and agreed that the Council was giving good value for money in maintaining the standards of service in the community. It was agreed to support the NALC campaign against restrictions on local council precepts and also to contact other councils in the North Fringe to make a combined objection.

9. Other financial or urgent matters

- a) Gorse Covert
Cllr. Bathe-Taylor informed the Committee of residents' complaints of dumped rubbish and broken glass in Gorse Covert. It was noted that SGC was responsible for keeping the woodland clean and that Patchway TC was responsible for the areas surrounding the play equipment.
- b) Road surface in Cavendish Road
Cllr. Martin reported the badly cracked surface of this road at the junction of Lee Close. The Clerk said she had reported this to SGC several times and asked the Head of Callicroft School to support this. The Head of Street Care had replied that this was a very large and expensive repair which involved cutting out the concrete surface, which

had collapsed, and rebuilding the tarmac surface and that funds for such work were restricted.

c) 17 Stroud Road

The Chairman stated she had spoken to the Planning Department, following a request at the Planning Committee and ascertained that the residents had obtained planning permission three years ago for this work.

d) Office photocopier

The Clerk drew Councillors' attention to the poor quality of copying and that Canon was no longer able to supply parts for this machine. It was agreed that prices should be obtained for replacing the photocopier and noted that there was provision for this item in the office equipment budget.

e) Freeman Presentation

It was agreed to ask Cllr. Erica Williams, the Chair of SGC, to present this award and, if this were a convenient date for her, to hold the event on Friday 18 November at 8 p.m.

f) November Council meeting in the Library

Councillors were reminded of the invitation to visit Patchway Library at 7 p.m. on Tuesday 8 November for a talk and refreshments, to be followed by the Council meeting.

10. Date of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 1 November 2016.