

Draft Minutes of Finance Committee held 16th January 2017

In attendance: Councillors S. Cleaver, M.J. Edwards, M. Harriman, B. Watson, J. Holmes, J. Macdonald

Chair: Councillor J. Macdonald

Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer: S Baxter

Apologies given and accepted: None

-
1. The Minutes of the previous meeting of the Finance Committee, held 23rd November 2016, were accepted and agreed as a true record.
 2. Applications for Grants were received and considered as follows:
 - i. Church House Management Group. An amount of £598 was requested to reimburse the Group for the costs of replacing a Water Heating boiler. This was agreed. (£598)
 - ii. Gresford Athletic Club. An amount towards the costs of new Goal Posts was requested and this was considered. An amount of £500 was agreed to be given in grant towards these costs. (£500)
 - iii. Gresford Trust. Councillor Holmes declared an interest and took no part in this decision. An amount of £4550 was requested towards the total costs of refurbishing the meeting rooms. Support was given in principal but Councillors requested sight of quotes and a full breakdown of costs before deciding on the amount to be awarded in this case.
 - iv. Home Start Wrexham. The Charity asked for a donation of £165 towards the costs of providing support to families within the community. This was agreed. (£165)
 - v. Gresford and District Community Library. Councillor Macdonald declared an interest and took no part in this decision. The Management group were asking for assistance with projected core costs, an amount of £4,400. A discussion took place about the funding arrangements that had been agreed previously. After discussion it was acknowledged that running costs have reduced overall and that funds have been raised, therefore it was agreed to support the grant funding application. It was suggested that the Library management committee be asked for a five year plan and to have some discussion with them about future funding. (£4,400)
 - vi. Gresford Village Bowling Club. Councillor Harriman declared an interest and took no part in this decision. Funding was requested by the group towards the costs of maintenance and renovation of the greens. After examination of the quotations it was agreed to award an amount towards costs of £500. It was suggested that the Council might be willing to consider future funding towards the irrigation system that is required to assist with reducing annual maintenance costs. (£500)
 - vii. Marford Pre-School Playgroup and toddlers. It was agreed that the group need to be contacted to provide more detail about the amount they require and for what purpose.
 - viii. Village Festival Committee. The Committee requested an amount of £500 towards the costs of displays and promotion of the Village Festival. This was agreed. (£500)
 - ix. North Wales Miners Association Trust. The Charity had requested an amount of £200. towards the costs of the mobile mining museum, citing their links to schools and the Village festival. This was agreed (£200)
 - x. 1st Gresford Scout Group. The Scoutmaster had requested an amount towards the purchase of new outdoor kit for the Scout group. This was agreed (£1630)
 - xi. Gresford Recreation Club Snooker section. An amount of £475 was requested towards the costs of insulating the roofspace above the tables. This was agreed as a one off project. (£475)

- xii. Gresford Retirement Club. An amount was requested towards the costs of Christmas lunch. The decision was not to allocate funding to the retirement club based on the documentation submitted.
 - xiii. Tenovus Cancer Care. The Charity had asked for an amount towards supporting their work supporting cancer sufferers and their families in the community. An amount of £100 was agreed (£100)
 - xiv. Gresford Pre-School Playgroup. It transpired that two forms had been received for different but related matters. As these had been received last year and carried over it was decided to obtain further clarification on what the funding would be used for. In addition, the accounts and constitution are required to be seen.
3. The Clerk presented a draft letter to JDH as internal Auditors. She advised that it was an Audit requirement to consider the present internal Audit arrangements before proceeding to engage to internal Auditor. With that in mind a specification had been drafted. Current arrangements were considered. It was thought that current arrangements should stand, with a more comprehensive look at any alternative Auditors before next year's engagement of internal Auditors. However, it was requested that their current fee be determined and brought back to the next meeting of the Finance Committee before proceeding, and Full Council approval can be sought at the March meeting.
4. Independent Remuneration Panel Wales: A report was presented from the Independent Remuneration Panel Wales, and its recommendations considered. Councillor Harriman made the point that the document is a section from a report which positively recommends adoption of permissive powers, however they are not mandatory in their take-up by individual Council members. A discussion took place on this point. Councillor Harriman proposed that the document be put to Council with a recommendation to adopt in its entirety. Councillor MJ Edwards put forward a counter-proposal that the document be submitted to Council for consideration of each of the permissive powers recommended with consideration of each item and to be looked at annually. Councillor Cleaver made a point that this was an important item and the issue of reimbursement of care costs is to encourage people to put themselves forward to come onto the Council She suggested that the document be sent to members before the Council meeting with the note that it must be read prior to the meeting. A discussion also took place about the need to present to Council the likely forward costs of adopting the recommendations. A vote took place on Councillor Harriman's proposal being taken forward and this was carried by a majority of 3 to 2 votes with one abstention.
- Therefore, it was AGREED: that the document be taken to the next meeting of Full Council with a recommendation that each determination be considered with potential costs .**
5. The Clerk raised an issue of the need to independently verify the Cash book entries made so far this year and also the Bank reconciliations. It was AGREED that Councillor Edwards would perform this task at the current time, and Councillor Holmes would also do so later in the year when required.
6. A discussion took place around the revised Grant Application documentation and amendments to procedures prepared by Councillor Watson. It was agreed to carry this forward to the next meeting of the Committee for a look in more depth.
7. The next date of the Committee will be held on the February 20th 2017, together with an extraordinary meeting of the Finance Committee to be held on 30th January to look specifically at the issue of Allotments.

ITEMS 2&4 TO BE DISCUSSED AT FULL COUNCIL 2ND FEBRUARY 2017