
Minutes of the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee**Held on 1st December 2014 at 7.30 pm in the Bush Room****Present:** - Cllrs. Terry Hunt (TH) (Chair), Alison Peters (AP), Marcus Fry (MF), Steve Blick (SB), Graham Smith (Clerk)**1. Apologies accepted for Absence**

James Sumner (JS)

2. Evacuation Procedure

Evacuation procedures were noted.

3. Public Participation

None

4. Declaration of Interests

None

5. Minutes of meeting held on 3rd November 2014 and Matters Arising5.1. Approval of The Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd November 2014**14.076 Resolved:** The Minutes of the meetings held on 3rd November 2014 were approved and signed by the Chairman

5.2. Matters Arising - None

5.3. Outstanding Actions - None

6. Matters Arising from Committee Reports

6.1. Planning Committee – (MW) - None

6.2. Footpaths & Allotments – (MF) informed members that a decision is required relating to the half yearly water charges payable to Bristol Water and who is responsible for payment. (Clerk) explained that currently the Parish Council has been paying such charges and is accounted for via "allotment operating cost", which is then off set against the long term payback of allotment set up costs. (PC) opposed the idea that the allotment holders become entirely responsible for the "Bristol Water" payments rather the Parish Council should continue to subsidise the cost. (AP) suggested that a level of accountability is required to prevent misuse. (MF) recommended that a financial cap be agreed whereby any water usage over and above the agreed limit will become the responsibility of allotment holders.

(PC) proposed that a cap of £300 be set which did not receive support. (TH) proposed a cap of £250 be set which was seconded by (AP) and agreed by the committee.

14.077 Resolved: An annual cap of £250 to be set on Parish Council payments of allotment water bills.

6.3. Playing Fields & Open Spaces Committee – (Clerk) informed the committee that the Merlin Housing Grant for additional play equipment falls short for the recommended three items of play equipment by £1,000 and should the Parish Council resolve to purchase the preferred two items of play equipment the grant will be underspent by £1,500. (TH) informed the committee that the grant must be spent on new equipment and may not be spent on maintenance and improvements to existing facilities and that money is available in the budget to cover the additional funding requirement.

(AP) proposed that the Finance Committee recommend that the Parish Council supplement the Merlin Housing Grant by £1,000 in order to purchase the recommended three items of play equipment. (TH) seconded the proposal and all members agreed.

14.078 Resolved: The Finance Committee recommend that the Parish Council supplement the Merlin Housing Grant by £1,000 in order to purchase the recommended three items of play equipment.

- 6.4. (Clerk) presented quotations for the planting of shrubs to infill the areas within the cemetery entrance borders where bushes had been removed the previous year. The committee agreed that the cheapest quote be recommended.

7. Financial Reports

7.1 Finance Report for November 2014

All reports are filed separately and not included in meeting notes.

14079 Resolved: The financial reports as presented were accepted as accurate.

8. Financial Matters

8.1. 2015/16 Budget

	2013/14	2014/15		2015/16
	Actual	Budget	Projected Actual	Proposed Budget
Finance & GP - Expenditure	30713	32936	27906	32380
Income	4938	4380	3414	4485
Precept	46519	53108	55306	52237
LCTS Grant	2247	2198	2198	2198
Net expenditure	-22991	-26750	-33012	-26540
Parks & Open Spaces - Expenditure	17065	22778	19467	22188
Income	2878	2299	2505	2193
Net expenditure	14187	20479	16962	19995
Footpaths and Allotment - Expenditure	3723	8223	5860	7513
Income	950	891	1426	968
Net expenditure	2774	7332	4434	6545
Total Budget - Expenditure	51502	63937	51234	62081
Income	57532	62876	62850	62081
Net expenditure	-6,030	1,061	-11,616	0
Precept	47346	55306 (includes 2,198 Overpayment)		54435 (to be reduced by 2,198)
Reserve Balance	60780		72396	72396

14080 Resolved: The committee unanimously recommends that the Parish Council budget for a 2.5% increase to the precept for 2015/16.

9. Authorisation of Payments

9.1. Payments made 1st December 2014 - Payments signed by Cllrs Terry Hunt & Alison Peters

Details	Ref.	£
Localism – Grass Cutting/Dog Bins	2492	1281.31
Weed killer – Cemetery & Play Areas	2493	120.00
Broadband, Calls, Line Rental (quarter)	2494	171.99
Annual Playground H & S inspection	2495	156.00
Alveston Youth Centre	2496	250.00
Alveston Litter Busters	2497	173.40
St Helens Pre-School	2498	100.00
4 Town & Vale Link Community Transport	2499	50.00
Helmet Magazine	2500	250.00
St Helens PCC	2501	100.00
Marlwood School	2502	50.00
Annual Membership Subscription	2503	167.00
Grounds Maintenance Contract - Nov	2504	1176.20
Total Payments		£4,045.90

9.2. Recent receipts

Details	Ref.	£
Bank of Ireland	T/fer	4.31
VAT Refund (1 st April-30 th September)	507334	1,999.12
Footpath Walking Calendar	inc2440	312.22
Total Receipts		£2,315.65

10. Correspondence

None

11. Any other business

None

Meeting Closed – 20.03

**The next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee is on
Monday 5th January at 7.30pm.**