

Attendance record**Chairman:**

Members: Cllrs Chamberlain, Massey, Pepper, K Straw, Staddon, and Waldron

In attendance: Clerk, Deputy Clerk

Members of Public: Cllrs Gent and L Straw attended as non-committee members.



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BROADCLYST PARISH COUNCIL

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Members of the Press and Public were welcome to attend this meeting in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (1) (2)

NB: There were no matters of a confidential and contractual nature for discussion under Part B (exclusion of press and public) this month)

Broadclyst Parish Council's Finance Committee met on Wednesday 20th May 2020 (virtually via Microsoft Teams) at 18:00hrs for the purpose of transacting the following business:

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MINUTES (Draft)

F20/025 RECORD OF VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE

Present: Committee Members present at start of meeting: Cllrs Pepper, K Straw, Waldron. Cllrs Chamberlain and Massey notified the Clerk that they would be late to the meeting due to previous commitments over-running. The meeting commenced at 18:07hrs and was held virtually via Microsoft Teams.

Apologies: The Committee received apologies from Cllr Rhodes who had nominated Cllr Chamberlain as his substitute. It was noted that the current Finance Chairman, Cllr Jackson, is to submit a request for a six-month sabbatical; this will be considered at Council's next meeting and Council will appoint an interim Chairman.

F20/026 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

The Committee agreed to elect Cllr K Straw as Chairman for this meeting.

F20/027 DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no new Interests declared.

Standing Orders were suspended:

F20/028 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Cllr L Straw as a non-committee member suggested that the Netball Club could do some online fund raising as an alternative as this has proven popular elsewhere.

The meeting reconvened under Standing Orders

F20/029 MINUTES

The Committee received the draft Minutes from the Finance and Governance Committee meeting on 17th March 2020

RESOLUTION: It was proposed by Cllr Pepper that the Minutes be approved as a correct record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Waldron and unanimously agreed.

F20/030 DISCRETIONARY COMMUNITY GRANTS

The Committee received and considered a grant application from Tornados Netball Club for £745.38 for equipment needed for its new couch to court project. The Committee agreed that it wished to support the couch to court initiative and empathised with the challenges of fundraising during the current lockdown period, but felt that it would like to see the Club explore alternative fund raising methods than those usually used.

RESOLUTION: It was proposed by Cllr Pepper the Committee resolves that the Council will match fund up to 50% of the value of the grant (a cap of £372.69) to support this initiative and the Club's own fundraising.

RESOLVED: The proposal was seconded by Cllr Waldron and it was unanimously agreed.

Cllr Staddon (at 18:16rs) and Cllr Chamberlain (at 18:20hrs) joined the meeting.

The following items were included as requests made by councillors at Full Council on 4th May 2020

F20/031 CLYST ROOM PARKING CHARGES

The Committee considered the motion before it which was that the Council charges for parking on the two parking spaces on Parish Council-owned land between the Clyst room compound and pavement. The reasoning is to negate the fiscal impact of the non-domestic rates that are charged on the property. The committee considered the wish to get vehicles in the area off the road to improve safety for students to access the secondary school, the 'market' value of the parking space given its location, administration costs, and a contribution towards the maintenance of the space.

After debate of many options, the Committee agreed that a charge should be raised.

PROPOSAL: It was proposed by Cllr Waldron that the Finance Committee recommends to the Council that it raises a charge of £15 pcm per space, with applications invited from anybody in that area to rent the spaces on a 12-month period. Seconded by Cllr Pepper.

VOTE: 4 votes for and 1 against: motion carried.

RESOLUTION: That the proposal as set out above be recommended to Council.

F20/032 LEVEL OF GENERAL AND EAR-MARKED RESERVES (EMR)

Cllr Massey joined the meeting part way through this agenda item at 18:39hrs.

The Committee considered the guidance around levels of Council's general and ear-marked reserves. Cllr K Straw suggested that the Finance Committee goes through the EMRs over the next 3 months to see what could be moved into General Reserves if it is unlikely to be spent in the next 2-3 years. This is to ensure the Council has enough funds should the Council's income be greatly reduced due to the Covid-19 crisis / any ensuing recession. Cllr Pepper noted that some EMR's are being built-up over a period of time; regular scrutiny of

PROPOSAL: It was proposed by Cllr K Straw that over the next 3 months, the Finance Committee considers each line of the EMR's and where there is no clear view of spending those EMR's in the next 2-3 years then the Committee recommends to Council that it moves those monies into General Reserves. This was seconded by Cllr Massey.

VOTE: 5 in favour, 1 abstention.

RESOLUTION: Motion carried.

F20/033 BOWLING GREEN

The proposal that the Council immediately stops funding maintenance of the bowling green had been raised by Cllr L Straw. The Chairman summarised a letter that had been received from the Bowls Club setting out the necessity to maintain it for the season to preserve the surface and prevent a reinstatement cost for 2021 summer season and the value of bowls for those members of the community who do play.

The Committee debated if there is a way to reduce the level of maintenance to keep the asset in a reasonable condition. The cost of the facility for the numbers of players in a time of economic crisis was noted; the inability of bowls club members to undertake their own maintenance was also noted.

PROPOSAL: Cllr K Straw proposed the motion to stop funding the bowls green immediately. Cllr Chamberlain felt that it is not right to go back on the Council's original agreement to put the future of the bowls green out to public vote, but recognised that the Green will not be used over the next two months due to self-isolation and social distancing; the Committee should try to find a 'middle ground' compromise.

ALTERNATIVE PROPSAL: Cllr Chamberlain proposed to reduce maintenance to a minimal level to maintain the asset whilst a forward plan is determined. Cllr Staddon supported this motion as an adequate compromise for the short term, whilst a plan of how to move forward is formulated.

VOTE (on the alternative proposal): 5 in favour, 1 abstention.

RESOLUTION: Original motion not carried; the alternative proposal had the majority vote and was carried.

ACTION: for the Clerk to instruct the contractor to reduce maintenance on the bowls green to a minimal level to maintain the asset at its base level until such time as the Council has determined a future plan for this asset.

F20/033 YOUTH CLUB SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT (SLA)

The Committee received a report on current Youth Club provision during Covid-19 and to consider renewal the SLA.

The following recommendations contained within the report were considered:

Recommendation 1: The SLA with Exeter YMCA Community Projects to provide youth support is paused until such time as we understand the impact of social distancing and can clearly assess the value being offered.

Recommendation 2: When Clyst Vale is allowed to re-open we work with the college to clearly identify the need for youth services and if appropriate commission a supplier to undertake this work.

Recommendation 3: Pursue the inclusion of youth representatives on the parish council. Kevin Bawn has offered to arrange a consultation with parish based young people to talk about youth provision.

PROPOSAL (Recommendation 1): It was agreed to invite Sam (YMCA Community Projects Manager) to speak with the Council about this at its next meeting on 1st June 2020.

Recommendations 2 and 3 majority vote to take these recommendations to Council (no vote by Cllr Staddon – personal interest).

Cllr Chamberlain left the meeting

F20/034 ACTION TRACKER

The Committee noted that all actions arising from 17 March 2020 are completed:

The following actions were arising from this Committee meeting:

- Clerk to instruct bowls contractor to reduce to minimal maintenance;
- Clerk to invite Sam Thomas to June Council meeting;
- Cllr L Straw to talk to Sam beforehand about the possibilities;
- Cllr Massey to respond to the Bowls Club letter.

F02/035 CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 19:23hrs

Signed:

Print:

Date:

ALL DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE IN LARGE PRINT