

BARLING MAGNA PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE meeting held on Monday 23 November 2020 by online conferencing, under s78 of The Coronavirus Act 2020.

Present: Councillors Ashdown, Cohen and Steptoe.

In attendance: M Power (Parish Clerk).

Apologies: Councillors Bond and Glover.

MINUTES

- 1. The Chairman to declare the meeting open.**
 - a. The Chairman declared the meeting open at 7.10pm.
- 2. To receive apologies for absence.**
 - a. Apologies were recorded, as listed above.
- 3. Appointment of Chairman and Vice-Chairman**
 - a. Proposed by Councillor Cohen, seconded by Councillor Ashdown that Councillor Steptoe be appointed chairman. Carried unanimously.
 - b. It was proposed by Councillor Steptoe, seconded by Councillor Ashdown that Councillor Cohen be appointed vice-chairman. Carried unanimously.
- 4. To receive declarations of interest in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct and with section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.**
 - a. All members present declared an interest as Council Tax payers. Councillor Steptoe declared an interest in any matter that arose in relation to the County or District Councils.
- 5. To sign as a correct record the minutes of the Finance Committee held 26 November 2019**
 - a. Proposed by Councillor Cohen, seconded by Councillor Steptoe that the minutes be agreed. Carried unanimously.
- 6. To consider a draft budget for the 2021/22 financial year and precept options and to agree any recommendations to be made to Council.**
 - a. A draft budget dated 23 November 2020 had been circulated and this was discussed. This included a review of the Council's financial priorities and the good practice of retaining between 3 and 6 months' running costs as a general reserve. The Clerk was thanked for preparing the draft.
 - b. It was proposed by Councillor Ashdown, seconded by Councillor Steptoe and agreed unanimously that:
 - (i) The Council should explore the option for taking out a further Public Works Loan Board loan to fund the replacement of the three older bus shelters within the 2021/22 financial year;
 - (ii) Minor adjustments to details of the draft budget should be made by the Clerk, including the likely cost of a new salt bin in Barrow Hall Road, the

- cost of upgrading the CCTV system, the appropriate provision for a contested election, and an increase in the budget for training;
- (iii) The budget should then be recommended to Council, along with a precept increased for 2021-22 by 12% (£10.93 annually / 21p per week, per household), to take account of increased general running/maintenance costs and the cost of increasing facilities in the Parish. This would amount to a total increase of £6,645.44 for the year based on 608 households in the parish.

7. At the Chairman's discretion, to exchange information on financial matters relating to the Parish Council.

- a. There was no information to share.

8. Exclusion of the Press and the Public

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 it was resolved that, in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it was advisable in the public interest that the press and the public be excluded and they were instructed to withdraw.

9. To consider the tenders received for the replacement of the three wooden bus shelters in the Parish

Members considered the quotes received from three companies for the replacement shelters. Proposed by Councillor Cohen, seconded by Councillor Steptoe that it be **recommended into Full Council that**: the option be explored of splitting the contract into two components (i) the supply and delivery of the shelters (ii) the dismantling and disposal of existing shelters and installation of new shelters, including new bases if necessary. The clerk was asked to look into the Highways permissions that would be needed for the traffic management and the costs associated with this.

10. To declare the meeting closed.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8:07pm.

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