

## LITTLETON & HARESTOCK PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20 NOVEMBER 2018

Those present: Mr P Cunningham, Mr J Biddlecombe, Mrs H Saunders, Ms K Learney, Mr G, Sallis and Mrs L Fielding (Parish Clerk)

1. **Apologies:** None
2. **Disclosure of Interest:** The clerk mentioned that she would have a personal interest if any decisions on Pensions would be discussed.
3. **Minutes of previous meeting in May:** The minutes of the last meeting were presented and accepted as a true record. Proposed by: Ms K Learney and Seconded by: Mr J Biddlecombe.
4. **Current Financial State:** The Parish Clerk explained the current expenditure and reserves position against budget; and identified that although spending was currently within budget, by the end of the year spending would exceed the budget due to the tennis club resurfacing and the work on the car park. Mrs Fielding presented a proposed new budget taking into account receipts from the tennis club. This was reviewed and some adjustments proposed which would be made prior to getting formal approval from the full council at the December meeting. It was noted that the cost of water was higher than expected and Mrs L Fielding agreed to provide some historic cost figures for water usage. It was also proposed that the clerk would review the reserves statement in order to increase reserves for flood resilience and car park work.
5. **Consideration of 2019/20 Precept charge and Budget setting**

The clerk put forward a proposed budget for 2019/20 assuming a 2.5% increase in the precept based on the following considerations: the loss of the Rate Support Grant (£1,700 in 2018/2910), the car park loan is now paid off, an additional £5000 to go towards flood alleviation, a proposed small increase in the cleaners salary, a reduction in the clerks salary cost due to a new incumbent, and an additional £1500 to support election costs in 2019/20. Following discussion, it was also noted that we should include funding to support long term repair of the car park, and to enable the Littleton Village Design Statement to be revised. Mrs L Fielding agreed to update the spreadsheet and distribute for approval by the finance committee prior to proposing the precept at the full council meeting in December.
6. **Any Other Business:** Mr P Cunningham raised a concern that as the previous clerk was the last person in the Pension scheme then costs for a valuation and a potential funding deficit would need to be paid. The meeting agreed to allocate £15000 in reserves from unallocated reserves to cover the potential deficit. It was agreed that Mrs L Fielding would contact the training barracks with a view to putting a new lease in place. The Clerk then mentioned that as is usual at this time of year, the Parish Council recognise the efforts of the unpaid volunteers who help the Parish Council with the award of gift vouchers, the meeting agreed to vouchers at the same levels as last year, plus an extra £50 for an additional volunteer who has been working on the Flowerdown Barrows. The Clerk raised the issue that the financial regulations need to be updated so that the authority to spend money on the budget is clearer. It was agreed that this would be discussed at the next finance meeting. There was no other business