

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on
Tuesday 13 November 2018 in the Civic Chamber, Council Offices, Skelmanthorpe**

PRESENT: Cllrs M Blanshard, S Hellewell, R Gott, P Flinders, G Turner, W Simpson, R Brook, J Depledge & J Cook.

APOLOGIES: Cllrs N Denby,

IN ATTENDANCE: C Wadsworth, Clerk to the Council

16/160 Declarations of Interest

Declarations of interest were received from Cllr Cook (Denby Delf grant application) and Cllr Turner (Men's Shed Association)

16/161 Open Session

A member of the public spoke in support of the Denby Village Conservation Group grant application

16/162 Apologies for Absence

Reasons for absence from the meeting were submitted from Cllr Denby.

RESOLVED that the reasons for absence submitted by the councillor be accepted as valid.

16/163 Admission of the Public

RESOLVED that there were no items requiring the exclusion of the press and public.

16/164 Grants (Brought forward)

RESOLVED that the community grant application from Denby Dale Pie Hall for £2143.24 be awarded, subject to clarification on Q16 to the Clerk, using the General Power of Competence provided by the Localism Act 2011.

RESOLVED that the following small grants be awarded using the General Power of Competence provided by the Localism Act 2011.

Cumberworth Football Club	Drainage provision	500.00
Emley Clarence Cricket Club	Mobile practice net	500.00
Clayton West Old Folks Treat	Food, drink, entertainment and crockery	500.00
Denby Dale Ladies' Choir	music	500.00
3 rd Pennine East Guides	Resources, ie. Badge books etc	281.70
Denby Village Conservation Group	Interpretation boards for Denby Delf	500.00
Churches Together in CW & Scissett Kidz Klub	Resources	300.00
Denby Dale Dragons PTA	Feasibility study for woodland hub	500.00
Skelmanthorpe Ut Junior FC	New kit	500.00

RESOLVED that the Schools Grant application from Cumberworth First School for £500 for workshops be awarded using the General Power of Competence provided by the Localism Act 2011.

16/165 Budget Outturn 2018/19

Heritage Working Party Accounts – Cllr Brook referred to the previous meeting in June where it was noted that one cheque for £40 had been paid across during the bank change over period for the parish council. This matter had now been resolved with a new cheque being presented which had gone through in this financial year.

RESOLVED that the Heritage Working Party Accounts be accepted.

Budget Outturn – Income: Cllr Brook noted that the parish council reserves had increased significantly over recent years. This had been a deliberate policy in order to take over the ownership of the community building, employment of a full time Countryside Officer, running of the allotments and to consider any devolved services from Kirklees Council. At the last November F&GP it had been agreed to hold reserves of £400,000, and this had been written into the Business Plan.

Cllr Brook noted that the main source of income was the precept, and in previous years the precept had been reduced by the amount of Council Tax Reduction Grant passed on by Kirklees Council. The parish council had now received a letter from Kirklees stating that the CTR grant would not be payable next year. Cllr Brook noted that at some point, the parish council would receive the Community Infrastructure Levy, however, this would not be passed on next year. Full Council may need to consider whether the costs in

producing a Neighbourhood Plan in future would be worthwhile to maximise the CIL received. Cllr Brook noted modest incomes were also received from room hire and allotment rents.

- Expenditure: Cllr Brook noted the overspend on the website budget line due to the establishment of a new website. There was also some notable underspend, such as Election costs, unless a by-election was called. GDPR had also been over-estimated due to the lack of understanding of what may be incurred. Community Grant Aid, originally in place for the Denby Dale Community Library, had been kept running to deal with any devolved services. Allotments had underspent now that they were well established. The Council Building was overspent due to the roofing works. Cllr Brook noted that continued underspend would raise the council's reserves.

RESOLVED that the Expenditure and Income to date be accepted.

16/166 Draft Budget 2019/2020 to be recommended to Full Council

RESOLVED to approve a formula of 2.4% current rate of inflation for next years figures for the majority of budget lines (excepting grants), with the following also being **RESOLVED** (*see attached*)

- GDPR reduced to £1,000
- Community Grant Aid reduced to a nominal £10
- Schools Grant raised to £11,000
- Allotments reduced to £500
- Churchfield Open Space budget line added (due to development of management plan by Countryside officer and with the question of mowing to be resolved as soon as possible) of £300
- Council Building repairs line reduced to £5,000
- Vehicle expenses raised to £6,000

Therefore setting a proposed draft budget of **£196,048** to be recommended to Full Council.

It was further **RESOLVED** that Cllr Gott investigate the costs of alternatives to leasing a vehicle from Kirklees Council.

Precept: The Clerk tabled calculations from last year for discussion. The level of reserves were dependant on the budget but also on the precept decision. This required careful thought prior to the January meeting.

16/167 Policy Review: Fire Safety Policy

RESOLVED that the Fire Safety Policy be adopted with thanks going to Cllr Gott for his hard work on this.

16/168 Orders for Payment

RESOLVED that orders for payment number 719 totalling £2,348.85 be approved for payment

16/169 Date of next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 15 January 2019

Signed..... CHAIR