

Finance Sub-Group

MINUTES of the Finance Sub-group meeting held at the Vicars Cross Community Centre, Oldfield Drive, Vicars Cross, on Thursday 13th February 2020 at 6pm

1	<p>Present: Cllrs Peter Bulmer, Pauline Cox, Sue Rigby and Martin Whiteley Apologies for absence: Cllrs Keith Scargill and Krissie Myler In attendance: Kath Lloyd, Clerk</p>
2	<p>Declarations of Interest: none declared</p>
3	<p>Minutes and matters arising: The minutes from the last Finance meeting on Wed 16th January 2020 were approved as accurate and the following matters arising were briefly discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The application for Pocket Park funding was not successful - the Friends of Caldy Valley Meadow will meet on Monday 9th March to consider next steps. Councillors are welcome to attend at 6pm at Caldy Valley Neighbourhood Centre. • The new laptop has arrived and is working well – all the necessary software installed. • The budget includes an allowance towards the cost of a Neighbourhood Plan. • The precept increase has been publicised on social media, the notice boards, is in the newsletter and the website. No comments from the public have been received.
4	<p>Financial update: The sub group received the monthly financial report from the Clerk and noted that the Council costs budget code includes the Reserves. The Chair (Cllr Whiteley) scrutinised the most recent bank statement and signed it off.</p>
5	<p>Centurion Community pub proposal: The sub group considered the information presented by the Centurion Community Action Group at the last parish council meeting and the Background Briefing paper presented by the Clerk. The Clerk was asked to send the Briefing Paper out for councillors to read and consider before the parish council meeting. There was a discussion about the merits of the different potential options including a Public Works Loan in order to purchase shares or a Public Works Loan in order to purchase the land.</p> <p>RESOLVED: the Finance Sub Group ask that the council considers the following question and agrees a response: Does the parish council have an interest in financially supporting the Centurion Pub as an asset to the community?</p> <p>The sub group agreed that if the council does have an appetite to provide the support, there should be a task and finish working party set up, to include someone from the Community Action Group to agree roles, responsibilities, take legal advice etc and report back to council in June.</p>
6	<p>Vicars Cross Community Centre: the Vicars Cross Community Centre sub group reported that finances are stable and that the centre manager is content with the revised system where she inputs the data and passes the cash book to the Clerk for balancing. There was a discussion about the funding for the recently installed heating system – due to the need for speed, the council had loaned the community centre the funding needed. However, the CWaC Members Budget has now supported the scheme and the community centre has been able to contribute</p>

	to costs, meaning that the overall contribution from the parish council is £2750.
7	<p>Bank Accounts: The Clerk presented an information sheet from Unity Bank and asked the sub group to consider switching bank accounts. The current account at the moment is with Nat West but there are security issues, particularly for the community centre manager who has a personal account with Nat West which the bank have linked with the council/community centre account. Unity Bank is used extensively by parish and town councils and is an internet bank with a cheque book facility if required. https://www.unity.co.uk</p> <p>RESOLVED: the Sub Group recommends that, subject to the Clerk seeking recommendations from other local councils and checking bank charges, the council switches its current account to Unity Bank.</p> <p>The sub group also considered the future of the £35k reserves in the National Investment Bank which currently receives 0.7% interest. The Clerk will bring more details to the next sub group meeting.</p>
8	Sub Group Expenditure: None received.
9	<p>Correspondence: the sub group noted the following correspondence:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Email from resident regarding parking issues in Broadmead and the response from the PCSO b. Email from Jacky Creswick (Caldy Valley Nature Park) regarding mini roundabout at Sainsburys and advertising banners c. Report from Maintenance Officer of complaints from local residents – parking and a possibly dead tree d. Email from PCSO asking for support with a Community Tea at VXCC – will parish council fund room hire? e. Email from PCSO asking for financial support with a parking campaign in partnership with Boughton Heath Primary School - £102.20 f. Email from PCSO clarifying the use of parking cones on Thackeray Drive at weekends <p>RESOLVED: that the sub group recommends that the council fund the parking campaign at Boughton Heath Primary School at a cost of £102.20 and the cost of room hire at Vicars Cross Community Centre for a community tea.</p>
10	Date and time of next meeting: Thursday 12 th March 2020 at 6pm
11	Information Exchange: none shared.