

## Finance Sub-Group

Minutes of the Finance Sub-group meeting held at the Vicars Cross Community Centre, Oldfield Drive, Vicars Cross, on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July at 2019 at 6pm

1	<p><b>Present:</b> Cllrs Peter Bulmer, Pauline Cox, Krissie Myler, Keith Scargill, Martin Whiteley  <b>In attendance:</b> Kath Lloyd, Clerk</p>
2	<p><b>Declarations of Interest:</b> none declared</p>
3	<p><b>Minutes and matters arising:</b> The minutes of the meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2019 were reviewed and there were no matters arising.</p>
4	<p><b>Criteria for selecting co-opted councillor: RESOLVED:</b> that the sub group agreed to use the criteria provided when considering applications for the co-opted vacancy</p>
5	<p><b>Selection of co-opted councillor:</b> See Part Two minutes</p>
6	<p><b>Financial update:</b> The sub group considered the end of year accounts for 2018/19 and scrutinised the Income &amp; Expense Statement and Balance Sheet. The following key points were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The council's base budget for the year was £64,000 from the precept and the operational spend was £58,500 providing a working surplus of £5,500</li> <li>• The previously accrued reserves were used towards the playground enhancements which totalled £83,000 (external funding from WREN, Lottery and local fundraising were also used).</li> <li>• No major projects are planned this year, unless new external funding is identified.</li> <li>• There has been an increase in the year end value of the General Fund and the Unforeseen Cost reserve which now stand at £25,000 against the financial plan target of £30,000.</li> <li>• Our local auditors are happy with the approach the council are taking but have noted that the current reserves are "minimal"</li> <li>• The VAT re-claim for the year is underway (around £12,000)</li> </ul>
7	<p><b>Vicars Cross Community Centre:</b> Cllr Myler, as Chair of the VXCC Sub Group, gave a verbal update of the finances, supported by Cllr Whiteley who stressed that in his view, the centre needed to build a general fund of £10k and a maintenance reserve of £20k in order to meet the costs of an aging building and increasing costs.</p> <p>The cost of gritting over the last year, seemed extremely high, given the mild winter – the centre manager will scrutinise invoices and report back. It was noted that the income and level of grant income has continued to grow and the centre manager was congratulated on this. The sub group are confident that the centre is self-sustaining and is meeting all operational costs.</p>

8	<p><b>Parish Councillor allowances:</b> parish councillors have traditionally been funded £10/year towards the use of their mobile/home phones and a further £15/year for printing expenses for those councillors who maintain the noticeboards. It is suggested that, in order to reflect the true cost of printing, an allowance should be made to councillors maintaining notice boards and all other allowances ceased. <b>RESOLVED:</b> that all allowances cease and that any councillor maintaining a notice board should be encouraged to claim upto £10 per notice board per year towards printing costs. It was also stressed that councillors should be encouraged to claim any travel expenses that they incur and that paper copies would be available from the parish office before and at the council meetings if needed.</p>
9	<p><b>Proposals for spending :</b> the sub group were asked to consider for recommendation any proposals from sub groups including suggestions for submission for s106 funding –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ cycle/footpath bridge across River Dee</li> <li>➤ cycle/footpath between Huntington and Christleton</li> <li>➤ upgrading of all cycle-ways in the parish (marking, signage etc)</li> <li>➤ additional slip road from/to A55 from Caldly Valley Road</li> </ul> <p>After a discussion, it was agreed that this item should be referred to the Traffic &amp; Transport Sub Group for more detailed plans.</p>
10	<p><b>Correspondence</b> – none received</p>
11	<p><b>Date and time of next meeting:</b> Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> Sept 2019 at 6pm</p>
12	<p><b>Information Exchange:</b> none shared</p>

## PART TWO

### *Confidential items which are commercially or personally sensitive.*

13	<p><b>Confidential correspondence: Item 5 from Part One:</b></p> <p><b>Selection of co-opted councillor</b></p> <p>Cllr Martin Whiteley declared that he knew one of the applicants and withdrew from the discussion at this point. The sub group considered the three 100 words applications submitted by local residents. They noted that all three applications were very strong and each had a wide range of experience and knowledge.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that the sub group recommend to full council the appointment of Sara Evans, who has extensive experience of multi-agency working, and working within the voluntary sector in outcome driven, not for profit activities.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> it was also agreed that due to the exceptionally strong applications, the Chair and Vice Chair would meet with the other two applicants and encourage them to be involved in other ways.</p>
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