

Minutes of a Virtual Meeting of Comberbach Parish Council's Finance Committee held on Tuesday 13th October 2020

Present

Mr S Hornby (Chairman in the Chair)
Mr J Bradley

Ms J Johnston
Mr J Ryder

Ms DJ French (Clerk)
Mr S Penwill (RFO)

The Meeting started at 4.30pm.

1. Apologies for absence

All present

2. To receive Members' Declarations of Interest

None received.

3. Minutes

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance Committee held on 8th July 2020 be approved as a correct record.

4. Quarter 2 Budget Report

The RFO presented the Quarter 2 Budget Report. There had been a shortfall in advertising income following the decision not to charge current advertisers but £90 of new advertising income had been received. There had been no bank interest received so far. The accounts showed an overspend this year of £9,325.56 but this was accounted for by the new signs and Recreation Area furniture for which expenditure had been approved in 2019 – 20 but not paid for until the current financial year.

Under the heading of Projects and Reserves it was noted that the budget sum included the provision of replacing a defibrillator during the current year. Members agreed to defer this expenditure until required.

The defibs were tested on a quarterly basis plus an alarm indicated when the pads needed changing.

RESOLVED: That the Quarter 2 Budget Report be approved.

5. Risk Assessment and Health and Safety

(a) The Committee considered a draft Health and Safety Policy. The Clerk explained this was based on an example from another local Council.

(b) The current Risk Assessment had been amended in sections 3 and 8.1 to refer to third party property and volunteers.

RESOLVED: that subject to any comments from Cheshire Association of Local Councils, the Parish Council be recommended to approve the Health and Safety Policy and Risk Assessment.

6. Skatepark Proposal

The Committee gave consideration to the financial aspects of the Skatepark/Pump Park proposal. Costs for equipment had been estimated at around £25,000 but site clearance and groundworks would also be required at around £5,000. The RFO had obtained information from the insurance company suggesting the premium could increase by £300 per year which was a 40% increase on the current premium.

The Committee noted that there were a number of other Skate or Pump parks in the wider area which may affect options for grant funding.

The Chairman had obtained information from a supplier suggesting there may be a need for a 'fall zone' and Members also discussed whether the size of the site was sufficient for a Pump Park.

RESOLVED: that

- (a) The Clerk contact Rospa for any advice in particular on the need for a 'fall zone';
- (b) Local residents who have previously contacted the Council be requested to provide any further information; and
- (c) A report be provided to a future Parish Council meeting to outline all likely costs both to build a Skate or Pump park along with ongoing maintenance costs and increased insurance liability; information on any funding options; and advice from Rospa or any other professional organisations.

7. Website

The Clerk and RFO explained that the new website had now gone live. They had received training on how to update and manage the website but were awaiting admin permissions. The website could be added to or amended as required and the link would be sent to all Councillors to enable any views to be considered at the next Parish Council meeting.

RESOLVED: That the update be noted.

The Meeting closed at 5.08pm

Cllr Steven Hornby (Chairman)