

**Betws Community Council
Finance Committee Meeting
Taking place remotely via Zoom, 26.10.21 at 7pm**

Present:

Cllr D. Stacey, Cllr M. Jones, Cllr B. Jones, Cllr. J. Picouto (via Telephone)

It was noted that the committee was currently without a chair, and so the first order of business was to elect a chair.

Cllr Stacey was proposed by Cllr B Jones, seconded by Cllr Picouto and **duly elected**.

A question was raised as to whether the Clerk, as Responsible Financial Officer, should be in attendance at these meetings.

It was proposed by Cllr Picouto and seconded by Cllr Stacey that the Clerk should be invited to attend future meetings, and the motion passed unanimously.

It was **resolved** that the Clerk, as Responsible Financial Officer' should be invited to future meetings of the finance committee.

1. Apologies.

Apologies had been received from Cllr L Phillips and Cllr. L Jones

2. To receive disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests from Councillors on matters to be considered at the meeting.

None were received

3. Review of financial documents from the Clerk.

It was noted that bank statements for August had been received, and these tallied with figures shown on the spreadsheet.

It was noted that figures relating to the Clerk's salary and to the Maintenance contracts of the three parks were not clear between the records of monies paid and the budget monitoring sheet

It was proposed by Cllr Stacey that the committee would ask the Clerk to forward statements for the rest of the financial year so far, unless they have been checked elsewhere, and that the Clerk would be asked to review and provide updated figures for the next meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Picouto. It was **resolved** to ask the Clerk for this additional information.

4. Review of the draft terms of reference for the committee.

The draft terms of reference were noted, and agreed. It was proposed by Cllr B. Jones and seconded by Cllr D Stacey that the terms of reference be sent to the full council for ratification. It was **resolved** to do so.

5. Planning application PL/02684.

The planning application relates to the development of the old pit-head baths on the corner of Pentwyn Road.

It was noted that the full council had previously raised no objections to this development, and no further objections were raised by members of the committee.

It was noted that work on the 106 application was being led by Cllr B Jones and work was ongoing to this end.

It was felt by the committee that future planning applications that fell between meetings would be better reviewed by email by the full council, rather than being considered by a committee.

It was proposed by Cllr Stacey and seconded by Cllr M Jones that the Chair of the council review the practice with the Clerk (and OneVoiceWales as necessary) to ensure that email consultation of the full council was permitted, and if so, to return to that practice. It was **resolved** to do so.

Cllr. B. Jones left the meeting at 19.30. The meeting remained quorate.

6. Matters arising from the Financial Regulations.

It was noted that the Financial Regulations had been approved in 2019, based on the model provided by One Voice Wales

It was noted that some elements of the text could be updated to clarify the situation for Betws Community Council.

It was noted that the council did not appear to have a three-year financial projection, as outlined in part 3 of the regulations. It was noted that a figure of £47,000 was listed as a precept for 2022/23, but members were unclear as to the process that had been undertaken to arrive at that figure.

The following actions were proposed by Cllr Stacey, seconded by Cllr M Jones and passed by vote.

It was **resolved** that the review of the financial regulations for clarity and alignment with standing orders be passed on to the new 'Task and Finish' group being considered by the full council, should it be approved.

It was **resolved** to ask the Clerk to clarify if the procedure outlined in 6.11 is in operation and to clarify the system for the review of Clerk's Salary as per 4.4

It was **resolved** to ask the Clerk for materials relating to longer-term budgeting and the process by which figures for the precept had been arrived at.

The meeting closed at 19.40

The date of the next meeting will be agreed via email to take account of the availability of members not present tonight.