

Brinsworth Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 27 JANUARY 2022

Those present :

Chair : Cllr C L Jones

Vice-Chair : Cllr K L Hollis

Councillors : Cllr A Buckley, Cllr J T Chatwyn, Cllr J R Gelder, Cllr P Gregory, Cllr T Hannan, Cllr A Nocton, Cllr S Ridge, Cllr M Rollinson, Cllr J Watson

Non Councillors : Cllr Mrs C Carter, Cllr A Carter

Officers : Mrs J Huddleston

2592F Public Question Time (20 minutes)

There were four members of the public in attendance and they had no questions.

2593F Apologies

None received.

2594F Declaration of Members' Interests

The Chair asked members to express any declarations of interest either now or prior to the relevant item being discussed.

2595F Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on :-

16th December 2021

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 16th December 2021 were approved as a true and accurate record.

2596F To Receive Information on Ongoing Issues and Decide Further Action Where Necessary

There were no ongoing issues to discuss.

2597F Financial Report

a) To receive the up to date bank balance

The Deputy Clerk reported that at 27th January 2022 the bank balance was £174,189.06.

b) To receive and approve the bank reconciliation for December 2021

RESOLVED: That this item would be deferred to the next meeting when the RFO is present.

2598F Receipts & Payments

a) To risk assess the receipts and payments for December 2021

Cllr Chatwyn asked how many phones the mobile contract is for. The Deputy Clerk said she would look into this and let her know.

Cllr Jones asked if a payment for advertising in the newsletter had been received. The Deputy Clerk said she would look into this.

RESOLVED: That the receipts and payments for December are risk assessed and approved.

b) To approve the list of outstanding invoices for payment

The Deputy Clerk read out the list of payments for approval, along with a quote to get the new goal posts installed by RMBC.

RESOLVED: That the list of invoices for payment and the installation of goal posts are approved.

The Deputy Clerk gave the costs of the new hanging baskets and explained an order would need to be placed in February to ensure these are done in time. Councillors asked that more quotes are sought, as well as costings for the older style hanging baskets and cost/time implications of watering them so a decision can be made at a future meeting.

2599F Budget

- To approve the 2022/2023 budget

Cllr Buckley referred back to point 2590F in December's minutes where the Chair said the RFO should be present when setting the budget and proposed to defer this item until the RFO was back. He said he had spoken to the Deputy Clerk who had confirmed that RMBC were aware the RFO is off and that they would be happy for a slight delay in the information being sent to them. The Chair said Cllr Buckley had no right to go over her head to speak to the Deputy Clerk. The Chair was reminded it is the Deputy Clerk's job to speak to all Councillors and that all Councillors can ask the Clerk or Deputy for information.

Cllr Rollinson asked Cllr Gelder if he had made the amended budget document. He affirmed that he had created the alternative budget.

The Deputy Clerk advised that given some of the proposed changes in the amended budget related to ongoing contracts it would be better to have the RFO present to let Councillors know the implications of changing them.

Cllr Hollis said that money in the budget headings could be changed through the year if necessary.

A vote was held on whether to approve the budget at this meeting.

RESOLVED: That the budget would be set at this meeting against the advice of the Deputy Clerk. Cllrs Buckley, Gregory, Ridge and Rollinson asked for their objections to be noted.

Cllr Buckley was asked to moderate his behaviour by the Chair. Cllr Buckley asked Cllr Gelder if he created the amended budget and Cllr Gelder confirmed again that he had.

Cllr Buckley then provided evidence to the meeting that the budget documents had been created and modified by Adam Carter and Drew Tarmey, who were observing the meeting.

Cllr Buckley questioned how people outside of the Parish Council had got hold of the Clerk's proposed budget, which Councillors were told was a confidential document, and asked the Chair what she thought should be done about this breach of confidentiality.

Cllr Hannan raised concerns about the implications of a potential breach of confidentiality and the Deputy Clerk said she could look into this.

The Chair asked the Deputy Clerk why anyone would trust what she said. After concerns were raised about this remark, the Chair apologised and while the Deputy Clerk accepted her apology she said that it was not acceptable to be spoken to like that and accused of

being untrustworthy for doing her job.

Cllr Buckley raised concerns about how the Chair was speaking to him and asked her to refer to him as Alan or Cllr Buckley.

Given the information, the Deputy Clerk advised that she would like to be able to find out more information about the budget, and that the RFO be present to discuss the above implications.

Cllr Buckley proposed to defer setting the budget and asked for a registered vote:

Cllr Buckley - For
Cllr Chatwyn - Against
Cllr Gelder - Against
Cllr Gregory - For
Cllr Hannan - Abstain
Cllr Hollis - Against
Cllr Jones - Against
Cllr Nocton - Abstain
Cllr Ridge - For
Cllr Rollinson - For
Cllr Watson - Against

RESOLVED: That the budget would be agreed at this meeting against the advice of the Deputy Clerk.

The Chair asked for it to be noted that she appreciated the work the Clerk had put into her draft budget and that the detail she gave on this at the November meeting had been helpful.

Cllr Gelder proposed the amended budget and Cllr Hollis seconded this.

The Chair referred to Standing Order 1(o) and told Councillors they could have 5 minutes each if they wanted to speak about the budget but reminded them that they could not ask questions about it. She produced a stop clock to time any Councillors who chose to share their thoughts.

A registered vote was held to approve the alternative budget:

Cllr Buckley - Against
Cllr Chatwyn - For
Cllr Gelder - For
Cllr Gregory - For
Cllr Hannan - For
Cllr Hollis - For
Cllr Jones - For
Cllr Nocton - For
Cllr Ridge - Abstain
Cllr Rollinson - Abstain
Cllr Watson - For

RESOLVED: That the budget for 2022/2023 is approved against the advice of the Deputy

Clerk.

2600F Precept

- To consider and approve the level of precept for 2022/2023

The Deputy Clerk advised that the precept to be approved would be the amount set in the budget, plus 0.17% and that she recommended this be done with the RFO present. Cllr Buckley raised concerns that a vote held on this would be a final decision, regardless of what the RFO's advice may be.

A registered vote was held to approve the budget figure plus 0.17% and that the RFO provide the exact figure at the next meeting.

Cllr Buckley - Abstain

Cllr Chatwyn - For

Cllr Gelder - For

Cllr Gregory - Abstain

Cllr Hannan - For

Cllr Hollis - For

Cllr Jones - For

Cllr Nocton - For

Cllr Ridge - Abstain

Cllr Rollinson - Abstain

Cllr Watson - For

RESOLVED: That the precept is agreed at the previous budget figure plus 0.17%.

MEETING CLOSED: 20.15