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Minutes of a meeting of the '**Finance Committee**' which was held on **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 7pm** in the Parish Office, to consider the **Budget & Precept Figures**.

**Present:-** Rosemary Thew (Chairman), Jenny Girling (Vice-Chairman), Edward Hackford & Nigel Sutcliffe.

**Clerk:-** Tracey Bayfield

**Public:-** 1

1. **Apologies for Absence** were received & ***accepted*** from Iain Wolfe. Neil Thompson has resigned from the Parish Council and is therefore no longer a member of this committee.
2. There were no **Declarations of Interest** from members.
3. It was ***resolved*** that the **Minutes** of the meeting held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019 are signed as a true record.
4. ***Open Public Session as below.***
  - Gray's funfair; people in the village are not happy with the decision to move them for the Carnser to The Pastures. The fair is deliberately kept small as they only have a very young audience. Need a public meeting. Feels that the decision was not undertaken in the public domain. Is The National Trust behind this? The three trading sites can make the Parish Council more income.
5. Due to the confidential nature of the business about to be considered (Contracts & Personnel included) it was ***resolved*** that the Press and Public are now to be excluded.
6. It was ***resolved*** that we renew our **Electricity Contracts** for supply to both the Parish Office & the Trading Sites/Carnser with SSE via LSI utility brokers for a three year fixed price deal.
7. It was ***resolved*** that the season start date for **Carnser Car Park** going forward will be 1<sup>st</sup> March each year, for the P&D tariff, but not the Car Park Attendants.
8. The following was ***resolved*** - All **Budget Figures – Year To Date & Year End** were worked through and as already reported via the Annual Return for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019, the balance brought forward was £97,324 (£19,681 less than projected). The projected income to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 is £129,087, and with a projected expenditure of £145,497, this would give us reserves of £80,914.

9. **Budget Figures/Estimated Expenditure for 2020/21** were also worked through, with any possible items we could reasonably anticipate, having been included and holding back financially where possible.

With anticipated balance at the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 being £80,914, the projected income for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> Mar 2021 is £130,945 and with a projected expenditure for the same period of £156,504 this would take the reserves down to £55,355, and this figure is not a comfortable one. This was **resolved** by the committee.

10. It was **resolved** that we recommend a **Parish Precept for 2020/21** of £41,000 to the Full Council.

11. The following key points were also **resolved** via the general budget discussions:-

- Whilst the Precept is proposed to increase from £39,000 to £41,000 the true increase to BPC is just £1,089 due to the additional support grant now being stopped altogether, this has reduced year on year and was worth £911 last year.
- Pleased to note that the Dinghy Park Committee have worked hard to hopefully be cost neutral going forward.
- The relief on the Business Rates has depleted and sadly this is something we have no control over, but increases our expenditure.
- Carnser income has been eroding historically, hence tariff and season dates reviewed.
- Maintenance expenditure costs have increased dramatically.
- We must be mindful going forward and work towards our annual expenditure not being greater than our annual income each year.
- We work on proposals to consider making the village hall car park an income stream to present to the Full Council.
- Detailed figures were reviewed regarding the dog and litter bin contracts and they are to be left as they are.

*Meeting closed at 8.45pm.*

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_