

HARBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting of the Finance Committee of Harberton Parish Council 7.30pm on Tuesday 7th January 2020, Harbertonford Village Hall Meeting Room

In attendance: Councillors (Cllrs) Beamish, Hockings, Janes and Williams

Apologies: Cllr Camp

Clerk: Ms Radford

Agenda

1. **Apologies** were received as above. In Cllr Camp's absence Cllr Beamish took the Chair.
2. **Report on actions from the minutes** There were none.
3. **Receive end of quarter budget report** Cllrs reviewed and accepted the budget report prepared by the clerk.
4. **Review end of quarter bank reconciliation**
Cllrs received the end of quarter (Quarter 3) bank reconciliation as prepared by the clerk showing a balance of £41543.68 including reserves. It was agreed to accept the bank reconciliation.
5. **Review applications to the Community Benefit Fund and consider grant recommendations**
 - 5.1 **Harbertonford Football Club: Changing Room Repairs** A Community Benefit Fund grant would support repairs to the players changing rooms severely damaged by a leaking water pipe. Cost of project: £1742 as per quotation. Amount requested: £1000. After discussion **it was RESOLVED** to recommend to the Parish Council that the grant is awarded provided insurance for the premises would not otherwise cover the cost of the works. The Clerk agreed to make the relevant enquiries.
 - 5.2 **St Peters Parochial Church Council: Vestry Restoration** A grant would be made towards the costs of restoring masonry above the vestry and repair the interior ceiling. Cost of project: £4056 inc VAT as per quotation. Amount requested: £1000. **It was RESOLVED** to recommend the grant be awarded.
6. **Consider Clerk Salary and overtime (if requested)** It was reported that the Clerk had not worked any overtime in quarter 3.
7. **Consider recommendation on 2019/20 budget and earmarked reserves**
The Finance Committee reviewed the 2019/20 spending to date, the proposed spend at the end of the financial year in order to prepare a proposal for the 2020/21 budget for review by full council at the ordinary meeting in January.

Cllrs considered budgeting for projects proposed at the December ordinary meeting of the Parish Council, and **RESOLVED** to make the following recommendations as part of the proposed budget:

Auto Speed Watch Camera	£0	It was reported that the Police have advised not to purchase this equipment until tests have been observed and the Police are willing to recognise the technology.
Parish Lengthsman	£7500	The Finance Committee propose increasing the precept to allocate a further 6 months funding (based on 1 day a week) towards project costs in 2020/21. It has been recommended to meet £3750 of this cost by carrying forward unspent reserves from the previous year. It was proposed that this allocation towards lengthsman services could also serve the Parish Council's wish to support general maintenance such as sweeping, clearance etc.
Ash dieback review	£250	As per estimate of costs for professional survey of trees on Parish land
Harbertonford Play Park	0	The Finance Committee made no allocation for this expense from the precept in this financial year.
Harbertonford Notice Board	£500	Costs allocated to the replacement of a Parish Council notice board for Harbertonford.

A proposed budget was compiled for full council review before publishing. **It was RESOLVED** to recommend to the Parish Council that the precept be set at £16,282. This is an increase of £2991 on the previous year, and an increase of £5.56 on the Band D Parish Rate.

It was commented that this increase was mostly due to the establishment of a lengthsman's service for the Parish.

8. **Confirmation of next meeting date** Tuesday 7th April 2020.
Meeting closed at 9.30pm