

ALVELEY AND ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Finance Meeting held on Tuesday 16th January 2018 in the Arden Centre, Alveley at 7.30pm

175 PRESENT

Cllr. Mr. K.R. Stanton (Chairman), Cllr. Ms. P. M. Barker (Vice Chairman), Cllr. Miss I. D. Jakeman, Cllr. Mr. R.J. Narburgh, Cllr. Mr. C. D. Noble, Cllr. Mrs. S.L. Potter, Cllr. Mr. D.J. Preece, Cllr. Mr. B.A. Punchard and Cllr. Mr. F.D. Voysey

176. IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. D.H. Rawlinson (Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer)

177. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was resolved: to accept the apologies received from Cllr. Mrs. J.M. Hall (personal matter) and Cllr. Mrs. A. Preece (work).

178. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS ON ANY MATTER TO BE DISCUSSED

Under Standing Order 13.h. dispensation was granted to all Councillors to enable the business of the meeting to be transacted.

179. TO CONSIDER AND DECIDE ON A DRAFT BUDGET 2018 – 2019

Councillors first reviewed the revised budget projections for 2017-18. It was expected that the street lighting capital budget of £34,600 would be fully committed by 31 March 2018, but there might be issues around the timing of the associated VAT refund. It was also noted that projected overall outturn expenditure of £63,733 is very close to the original approved budget of £64,200.

Councillors considered a suggested expenditure budget of £58,550 for 2018-19. Following discussion this budget was amended as follows:

- (a) £3,000 was removed that had been identified for 'Christmas Tree and Lights' pending further representations to Turnock Ltd, and to make room for competing priorities. This action was proposed by Cllr. Voysey, seconded by Cllr. Miss Jakeman and **was approved** by a majority vote of 4 to 2.
- (b) £250 was added for Church Clock maintenance to increase the earmarked reserve for this work to £1,000.

ALVELEY AND ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

- (c) The budget for amenity land grass cutting was increased by £900 to £1,500 to reflect existing commitments and the ongoing efforts by Shropshire Council to transfer additional responsibilities to the Parish Council.

There was also discussion of the proposed budgets for insurance and conferences but no changes were made to the suggested budget. There was a request to make provision within the 2018-19 budget for providing 'Smartwater' security to more homes, and for introducing a local 'Lengthsman' service. It was decided further research was required on the former and that the latter might be supported through Environmental Maintenance Grant, once the level of grant in 2018-19 was known.

It was resolved that:

1. The income for 2018 - 2019 was expected to be £100.
2. The estimated expenditure for 2018 - 2019 was agreed as £56,700.
3. A sum of £5,400 would be taken from the Unallocated Reserves for the year 2018 – 2019.

The agreed budget is attached.

180. TO CONSIDER AND SET A PRECEPT FOR 2018 – 2019

Councillors considered the Precept requirement for 2018 – 2019. Taking account of:

- The effect of any increase in the Precept on the Band 'D' Council Tax bill;
- The planned further reduction in Unallocated Reserves, and
- Possible additional costs of taking on devolved services from Shropshire Council.

and using the formula below:

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Expenditure} - \text{Income} - \text{Contribution} = \text{Precept} \\ \text{from Reserves} \\ 56,700 - \text{£}100 - \text{£}5,400 = \text{£}51,200 \end{array}$$

It was resolved that the Precept for 2018 – 2019 would be set at £51,200.

This would result in a Band 'D' Parish precept increase of 3.0%, to £61.29

The Clerk was requested to inform the Head of Finance, Governance and Assurance at Shropshire Council as soon as convenient.

17/18/59

ALVELEY AND ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

181. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 6th February 2018 at 7.45, preceded by an Open Forum at 7.30pm and will be held at the Arden Centre Alveley.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance.