

## NUTHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Finance Committee Meeting, held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2019, at 8.05pm, Mannings Heath Village Hall, Mannings Heath

**Present:** Cllr T Nelson (Chairman) Cllr C Kenny  
Cllr D Cotton Cllr J Mercer  
Cllr O Hydes (OBE)

The Clerk to the Parish Council, Sarah Hall, and Cllr N Bryant, Cllr J Chaytor and Cllr D Livingstone were also in attendance.

**FC001-19/20 APPOINT THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr T Nelson be elected Chairman of the Finance Committee for the 2019/20 municipal year. **PROPOSED** by Cllr J Mercer and **SECONDED** by Cllr O Hydes.

**FC002-19/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

It was **RESOLVED** that apologies for absence from Cllr S Turner be **APPROVED**.

**FC003-19/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest, as defined under the Localism Act 2011 and the Parish Councils Code of Conduct, were made.

**FC004-19/209 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

It was **RESOLVED** that the [minutes of the Finance Committee meeting](#), held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018, be confirmed as a correct record and be recommended for approval to the Full Parish Council.

**FC005-19/20 TERMS OF REFERENCE**

It was **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the updated [Finance Committee Terms of Reference](#) at the next meeting Finance Committee meeting

**FC006-19/20 PUBLIC SESSION** – no members of the public wished to speak in the public forum.

**FC007-19/20 REVIEW OF 2019/2020 Budget**

The precept for 2019/20 has increased by £5,500.00, an increase of 13.6%. WSALC commissioned a report on Council Tax Referendum Principles in November 2019, this included the annual precept of each Parish in the District and the % percentage increase, Nuthurst Parish Council were in the middle of all the Parishes.

The Parish Councils reserves have diminished considerably. There is excellent justification for the overspends, most recently the treatment of the Chafer beatles, costing £4,000.00, on the village green and other expenses, including preparing for the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), Legal advice on planning issues and tree liabilities.

The Parish Council has a responsibility to maintain all the trees on their land and tree surveys are now recommended every 18 months. The contents of the report

must be actioned in a timely manner, including felling, surgery and additional reports. The treatment of Bleeding Canker and Leaf Minor is also included.

SSALC recommend that Parish Councils reserves are 50% of the precept (precept 2019/20 £46,000.00). After the `allocated expenditure' is deducted the reserves are dangerously low at £16,781.00.

The Parish Council need to be prudent and will be reviewing their expenditure with intention of reducing costs wherever possible. With the necessary insurance and risk assessments in place, consideration will be given to volunteers carrying out some of the tasks.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Chairman of the Finance Committee and the Clerk consider the budget and take back to the finance committee for consideration, prior to going to Full Council.

[Budget Comparison April/May 2019](#)

**FC007-19/20 COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH**

It was **RESOLVED** to **DECLINE** the request from the Community Speed Watch Group for the purchase of two bomber jackets.

**FC008-19/20 MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS TO BE REFERRED TO ON THE NEXT AGENDA.**

**The meeting closed at 8.400pm**