

**Minutes of the meeting of the
FINANCE COMMITTEE
held on Monday 14th January 2019 at 7:08pm
in the Committee Room, Freight House, Bradley Way, Rochford.**

Cllrs present: Chairman K Binding, R Gardner, R Patient, Mrs M Weir & S Wootton.

46. Apologies for non-attendance at meeting:

No apologies were received.

47. Declarations of any:

a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interest;

b) Other Pecuniary Interest; or

c) Non-Pecuniary Interest

on any matter on the agenda for 14th January 2019:

Cllr Mrs M Weir declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (a) in relation to Agenda item 9 (Minute 54) given former Cllr D Weir was her husband.

48. Public Forum:

No members of the public were present.

49. To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December 2018 and to approve the destruction of the notes in respect of that meeting:

The Minutes of the meeting were **approved** as a correct record and Members approved the destruction of the notes in respect of that meeting.

50. Action Update List – January 2019:

Members noted there were no outstanding items.

51. Financial Report – December 2018:

The Clerk reported that at month nine the total budget was 56.5% spent against an expected budget spend of 75%. The Clerk reminded Members this was largely due to a Groundsman's salary no longer being spent. Finance was on target; General Purposes was underspent with Christmas lighting expenditure due. The Clerk further reported that the Parks' budget was 41% spent.

There were no questions and Members **accepted** the Financial Report.

52. Consider Precept for 2019-20 for recommendation to Full Council:

Members noted the paper which had been prepared by the Clerk. Members were reminded that an overall budget of £183k had been approved at the December Finance Committee meeting. The Clerk informed Members Rochford District Council (RDC) has provided the official Tax Base and LCTS figures and that the LCTS grant had halved for 2019-20 with confirmation that the grant would cease following the coming financial year. It was noted that calculations provided by the Clerk represented a Precept increase of 1.2% (0.45p per household, per annum from £37.34 to £37.79 for Band D equivalents)

Members enquired if the Clerk was confident the figures were still accurate given that a few months had passed since discussions. The Clerk explained that the change in the Parks Management had presented some challenges with regards to underspends and the management of using external contractors but was confident with the presented figures. Members agreed a year needed to pass to allow the new budget allocations to be effectively reviewed.

Cllr R Patient moved that the Finance Committee recommend to Full Council a Precept of £183,016.36 for 2019-20. This was seconded by Chairman K Binding with all Members in agreement.

53. Set date for Q3 2018-19 Financial Checks:

Members noted that the Clerk would contact Cllrs Mrs E Gadsdon and S May to organise the next set of Financial Checks and estimated they would take place towards the end of January/early February.

54. Consideration of a donation in memory of former Councillor David Weir to Havens Hospice from the Chairman's Fund:

Cllr Mrs M Weir left the Chambers following her disclosure of Pecuniary Interest (Minute 47.) Members briefly discussed Cllr D Weir's tenure, noting he'd served as a Parish Councillor for over 20 years. Cllr S Wootton proposed a donation of £50 be made to Havens Hospice in memory of former Cllr D Weir. This was seconded by Cllr R Patient with all Members in agreement.

(Cllr Mrs M Weir returned to the Chamber at 7:15pm)

55. Subscription renewal:

a) Essex Wildlife Trust (£40)

Cllr R Patient moved that Members approve the subscription of £40 for the coming year. This was seconded by Cllr R Gardner with all Members in agreement.

56. Summary of Decisions:

- Precept for 2019-20 of £183,016.36 approved for recommendation to Full Council.
- Clerk to organise Q3 2018-19 Financial Checks with Cllrs Mrs E Gadsdon and S May.
- Donation of £50 to be made to Havens Hospice in memory of former Cllr D Weir.
- Essex Wildlife Trust annual subscription (£40) approved.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7:17pm.

Chairman