Minutes of the Resources Committee Meeting

Held on 6th December 2022 at 7.30pm in the Parish Office

Present: Cllr K Ingram (in the chair), Cllr C Emsley, Cllr Payne, Cllr Greatrex, Cllr Mills, Cllr Gregory and Jayne Cooper, Clerk/RFO

Public Open Forum
None present

1. To receive apologies and record absences
Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Booth and Cllr Holmes

2. To record any declarations of interest
There were no declarations of interest.

4. To receive and confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 13th October 2022
The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.

5. To consider any matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda
It was confirmed that the Asset Register had been reviewed.

6. To consider a budget and precept for 2023/24
Councillors received a draft budget prepared by the Clerk, Chair and Vice Chair of Resources that had taken into consideration budget requests from other committees, the current cost of living crisis and increases in utility bills and other expenses. To reach a balanced budget, a 2.5% increase in the precept would be required that equates to an annual increase of £1.24 for a band D property. It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed to approve the budget as presented with a precept of £105,810.52.

7. To receive a report on bank accounts
After spending a lot of time completing 4 new applications for 4 new bank accounts, the Co-operative Bank has confirmed that Parish Councils are no longer eligible for community accounts. Accounts already held (of which Gnosall Parish Council has 5) could remain open but no new accounts can be opened.

Many parish councils are opening accounts with Unity Bank and this had been researched. However, with a £6 per monthly fee, 15p charged on every transaction if turnover is over £100K, would be costly as the parish council has multiple accounts.

It was agreed that the Clerk should make enquires with Stafford Railway Building Society and should that not be an option, that bank accounts would have to remain as they are unless information from any other banks is obtained that may be worth exploring.

8. To note retirement of the Internal Auditor and discuss a replacement
The Clerk informed councillors that the appointed internal auditor had retired. Details of five auditors had been obtained along with their charges.

After discussion it was agreed to appoint Sandie Morris, at £30 per hour plus travel expenses. She is a qualified accountant with knowledge of parish councils.

9. To report on any funding applications
The Clerk reported that no funding applications had been submitted recently however, with GG's Youth Club likely to reopen in 2023, any suitable grants would be applied for to replenish stock.

10. To consider a request for a donation from Gnosall Girl Guides
A grant received requesting £300 to help fund a project that would benefit 90 members of Rainbows, Brownies and Girl Guides was approved.

11. To consider any Policy or Risk Assessment reviews (Financial Risk Assessment)
The financial risk assessment is due for renewal in June 2023 therefore would be reviewed in Spring 2023 in readiness for renewal.

It was agreed to accept the recommendation from Procedures Review Committee in that the Council's Financial Regulations should be reviewed by Resources Committee and this would be caried out in early spring.

12. To agree the date and time of the next meeting
To be confirmed.

To exclude members of the public whilst confidential information is discussed

13 To consider quotations for CCTV cameras
Three quotations had been received and were reviewed. It was agreed further information is required regarding the quality of images that are recorded by cameras particularly at night. The CSO to action.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm