

Report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee to the Parish Council

The Committee met at 7.30 pm on **Monday 24th November 2014** in Committee Room 1 at the Parish Hall in Great Baddow. Councillor Mrs C Shaw chaired the meeting.

Present: Councillors Mrs C Shaw, A Sosin, Mrs J Sosin, K Ronaldson, Mrs V Sadowsky, G Jarvis and Mrs S Young

In Attendance: The Assistant Clerk of the Council

Cllr Mrs C Shaw proposed that an additional Private and Confidential item should be added to the end of the agenda to discuss staffing matters and this was agreed.

475/14 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence from Cllrs T Miller and Mrs D Ronaldson

476/14 Declaration of Interests

Cllr K Ronaldson declared a non pecuniary interest in the grant application from 1st Great Baddow Guides in item 478/14.

Cllr G Jarvis declared a non pecuniary interest in the grant application from Great Baddow WI in item 478/14.

477/14 Public Question Time

There were no members of the public present.

478/14 Grants

Requests for grants had been received from various groups and these were considered.

It was proposed by Cllr Mrs C Shaw and seconded by Cllr Mrs V Sadowsky that grants be made under S137 of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended for the financial year 2015/2016. The grants to be awarded are attached at Appendix 1.

It was noted that only five applications for grants had been received this year, and it was agreed that information should be placed in the autumn edition of the Great Baddow Times, and on the Council notice boards, to increase awareness of the awards.

Cllr A Sosin reported that a query had been raised concerning the S106 grant awarded to the YMCA from the Marrable House redevelopment. The Assistant Clerk confirmed that the full award of £7500 had been given to the YMCA and that Chelmsford City Council were awaiting a report on how the funds had been used.

Cllr Mrs J Sosin reported that, following a talk she had given at the Rotary Club, a donation of £250 was being given to the Youth Leader at the YMCA Drop In Centre.

Cllr Mrs S Young informed the meeting that it may be necessary to request an additional meeting of the Organisation Methods and

Personnel Committee in December to receive an interim report on the staffing review, to discuss the remit of the Council's current HR provider, and to consider the Council's policies on Risk Assessments and Health and Safety.

479/14 Precept

The Assistant Clerk had circulated a draft budget prior to the meeting and a spreadsheet prepared by Cllr A Sosin, which had also been circulated prior to the meeting, was updated. Cllr A Sosin outlined the changes that had been made to the draft budget. Thanks were given by the committee to Cllr A Sosin, the Clerk and the Assistant Clerk for their work in preparing the budgets and reports.

It was proposed by Cllr A Sosin and seconded by Cllr Mrs C Shaw to recommend to the Council that the Great Baddow Parish Council precept for 2015/201 is set at £355,717.00, which represents a 2.3% increase on 2014/2015.

The Council will reserve the right to re-consider the precept figure, in the light of any new advice from the Clerk, or changes to regulations.

It was resolved that the meeting would be closed to the public and press under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted in the following item

480/14 Staffing

Cllr Mrs J Sosin confirmed that the Clerk had not yet returned from sick leave and had been referred for further consultations. It was also noted that a member of the grounds staff had been absent on sick leave for a number of weeks, and that a back to work interview would be required and a phased return may be necessary.

Cllr Mrs S Young noted that it was a number of years since the Council's Risk Assessments and Health and Safety Policies had been reviewed and that this should now be carried out as a matter of urgency.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.45 pm.

Signed.....Chairman.....Date