

**FINCHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**  
**7.00 PM on 18 DECEMBER 2018**  
**FBC CENTRE, GORSE RIDE NORTH, FINCHAMPSTEAD, BERKSHIRE**

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**PRESENT:** Cllr R. Woof, Chair. Cllr S. Bromley, Vice Chair.  
Cllrs D. Cornish, R. Cundy, Mrs B. Eytle, G. Jukes OBE, R. Rampton  
and G. Veitch.

Mrs. Dagnall, Clerk.

**477/2018 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr May.

**478/2018 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Non pecuniary declarations were received as follows:

Cllr Bromley: California Ratepayers Association; Finchampstead Park Management Committee.

Cllr Cornish: Berkshire MS Therapy Centre.

Cllr Cundy: California Ratepayers Association; Finchampstead Park Management Committee; Finchampstead Primary School; Finchampstead Park Management Committee.

Cllr Jukes: ARC.

Cllr Rampton: Keep Mobile.

Cllr Woof: Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership.

**479/2018 GRANTS AND DONATIONS POLICY**

The Committee met on 22 November to discuss the future approach to grants and donations. Notes of the meeting were circulated.

It was noted that the last review of the Policy was in 2014 and at that time it and the decision making process was considered sound. In 2014 the grants and donations formed around 25% of the precept which was considered appropriate.

In 2018/19 the grants and donations formed almost 30% of the precept, the increase is largely due to the additional £3000 funding for youth activities, and an increase of £4000 in the overall grants provision since 2014. In 2018/19 the overall grants and donations budget was overspent by £2424.

It was agreed that the overall grants and donations budget should not be increased for 2019/20 but that some adjustments would be made to different lines within the budget.

It was agreed from 2019/20 onwards a limit of £1000 would be introduced for grants to be paid in that year. If funds allow applications for higher amounts may be considered.

Significantly higher applications – generally for capital projects – will be considered in 2019/20 but payment may be deferred to 2020/2021 if additional budget is required to fund the project. The use of Community Infrastructure Levy funds will be considered for this type of application.

It was agreed that grants for the following organisations activities would in future be agreed as part of the budget process, each having a separate line in the budget. Funding for these organisations would still be subject to full justification and a grant application as appropriate.

Finchampstead Baptist Church Youth Work	£12,000
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Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership (BVCP)	£4000
Keep Mobile	£3000
Citizens Advice Bureau	£3000

Cllr Woof and the Clerk will review the wording on the grants policy to reflect the changes.

#### **480/2018 2019/2020 BUDGET AND PRECEPT DEMAND**

The end of year projection indicates an underspend of £6000 which will be placed in to the general reserves.

The proposed Ear Marked Reserves for 2019/20 total around £20,000. Remaining general reserves are sufficient to meet the recommended 3 months operating capital but reserves overall are considerably lower than in previous years.

The draft budget was considered and savings of £12,000 identified to bring the increase in precept to under 10%. An additional £6000 was added to Ear Marked Reserves.

It was noted that the draft budget includes provision for salary increases. Staff appraisals will take place early in the New Year and any increases will be confirmed after this.

A further draft will be circulated for consideration at the next Committee meeting on 8 January 2019, and a final version will be recommended to the Council at its meeting on 17 January 2019. Wokingham Borough Council require the Precept Demand by 4 February 2019.

The Clerk will ask Wokingham Borough Council for a breakdown of the number of properties in the Parish in each Council Tax band.

#### **481/2018 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on 8 January 2019

*These minutes are subject to final approval at the next meeting of the Committee*