

Report from the St Mary Bourne Finance Committee Meeting
Held on Tuesday 23 October 2018 at 7.15pm in the Club Room, Village Centre

Those present: The chair, David Peart, Cllrs Bridget Culley, Katie Dixon, Carole Whitlock and the clerk Jo Exelby.

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Gwen Randall
- 2. Register of Interests:** None
- 3. Review of the second quarter spend against budget**

Resolved: It was noted that the spend in quarter two actual is lower than budgeted, although this is principally due to timing difference – particularly with the planned open space improvements delayed further as we wait for the release of S106 funds from BDBC. A significant saving has been made in the insurance premium as a result of moving insurers, and this was further reduced by agreeing to a 3 year plan.

4. Review projection for the financial year and approve virements

Resolved: The projections for the year and the reconciliation of the budgeted to projected surplus were reviewed and discussed. It was noted that projected receipts and payments are both lower than budget, as the purchase of Black Garden is not now expected to go ahead. Differences have also arisen as expected grants and proposed spending on the Bourne bank restoration work which were omitted from the budget due to a lack of certainty as to the grants at the time of the budget setting. Also, the projection includes receipts and payments relating to the additional equipment for the Recreation Ground, which were omitted from the budget as it was expected that the projects would be completed within 2017/18.

5. Review 1st draft of 2019-20 budget

Resolved: The 1st draft of the budget was reviewed, which showed budgeted spending of £158,330. It was acknowledged that there is currently significant uncertainty as to the grounds maintenance contract which will expire on 31 March 2019 and will shortly be put out to tender. It was noted that there will likely need to be a significant increase in precept for the following reasons:

- We have not increased our precept since 2010-11, except for 2012-13 when the precept was increased to pay for the resurfacing of the hardstanding and then dropped back the following year. This has led to a reduction in the Band D precept per household. During this same period our core running costs have increased from just over £31k to just over £38k, an increase of 22.5%, and general inflation has run at approximately 20%.
- We have been very active in projects for the last couple of years and are likely to continue to be so for a few years, with Pathfinder, Open Space improvements and the Community Funded Initiatives. Whilst these are mostly funded by external funding, they do generally require an element of parish funding as part of the project. We have sufficient reserves to accommodate this, unless we are also using our reserves to pay for our day to day running.
- We have run a deficit each year since 1 April 2015, which is reducing our reserves.

It was agreed that any required increase in precept will be phased over 2-3 years to reduce the impact in any one year.

6. Review & approve GDPR policies and privacy notices

Resolved: The general privacy notice and contact privacy notice were reviewed and approved.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.

Jo Exelby
Clerk, St. Mary Bourne Parish Council
24 October 2018