

SANDIACRE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on Thursday, 28 November 2019 at 7pm in the Memorial Institute, 19a Doncaster Avenue, Sandiacre, Derbyshire NG10 5FJ

PRESENT:

	Cllr W Major	(Chairman)
A	Cllr Mrs L Bilbie	
	Cllr S Bilbie	
	Cllr Mrs C French	(Co-opted)
	Cllr N Raycraft	
	Cllr Mrs C Powers	
	Cllr T Sanghera	

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs M Bloor - Clerk to the Council

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: None

1. APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCES

Councillor	Reason for absence
Mrs L Bilbie	Prior commitment

RESOLVED: to approve the apology for absence received

2. CO-OPTION TO THE COMMITTEE

It was proposed by Cllr Major and seconded by Cllr Bilbie that Cllr Mrs French be co-opted to the Finance Committee with immediate effect.

Cllr Mrs Powers offered a counter proposal that Cllr Mrs Dickman be co-opted.

Discussion followed on the Committee's composition and political balance and it was considered that Cllr Mrs Dickman was being proposed in her absence and without advance notice.

The Clerk advised that Cllr Mrs Dickman had not informed her in advance of the meeting that it was her intention to stand for the Committee or that she was unable to attend the meeting, which was standard custom and practice.

The motion was not seconded.

A vote was taken on the original motion to co-opt Cllr Mrs French. For: 4 / Against: 1

The motion was carried and Cllr Mrs French was welcomed to the meeting.

3. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor	Declared Interest
S Bilbie	Personal interest as a Trustee of the Memorial Institute
W Major	Personal interest as a Trustee of the Memorial Institute and a Governor of Cloudside Academy

4. TO CONSIDER REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

It was noted dispensation was no longer required for Councillors setting the Precept.

5. VARIATION OF ORDER OF BUSINESS

There were no variations to the order of business.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

It was **RESOLVED**: that this item be removed from the Agenda as the public could raise any matters at monthly full Council meetings

It was noted the public had the right to attend and observe all meetings of the Council, unless confidential matters were under consideration.

7. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Finance Committee meeting held on 22 November 2018 was inquorate.

The Minutes recording the outcome had been signed at the full Council meeting held on 8 January 2019 when the budget was set and ratified.

8. BUDGET MONITORING STATEMENT

The budget monitoring statement covering the period 1/4/19 to 30/9/19 was noted.

The Chairman outlined priorities and budget pressures for the forthcoming year:

- Headstone testing: Cemetery and churchyards
- Introduction of a Neighbourhood Plan
- St Giles' Church retaining wall: Final phase (covered by VAT refunds)
- Painting the Parish Council's office and perimeter fencing
- A CCTV camera for Springfield Park would require an increase in Precept of 48%, which was not feasible with a tight budget. Councils could not obtain grant funding
- Grant funding was being applied for to redevelop Springfield Park's play area
- The Summer play scheme could be held over 6 weeks and parents would be asked to contribute a little more towards costs
- The rental agreement for Christmas lights would end in 2019: Year 3 or 3

9. CONCURRENT FUNCTIONS (CF) 2020/2021

Comparison with other parishes

Precept and Concurrent Functions Comparison

Sandiacre has the highest number of Parish Councillors (14) compared to other parishes within Erewash. The lowest number being 5 Members.

Precept comparison / Band D charges

Sandiacre has the 3rd highest Precept within the Borough, but the lowest Band D charge at £16.48.

Council Tax Support Grant

This grant was not available from 2020, creating an overall reduction of £2,396

EBC Concurrent Functions allocation

The allocation of £19,093 remained unchanged from the previous year.

Changes from 2019 to 2020

- The grounds maintenance contract would reduce by a £1,000 following a change in provider to Countrywide Grounds Maintenance from 1/4/20
- Mr Wallace was willing to move to a further 2-year contract at a cost of £11 per hour
- Several items of expenditure had been moved from the Precept to the CF headings to create a more precise record of costs for the EBC Out-turn Statement
- Salary costs for the Clerk had been increased by 2%, but the final figure was yet to be agreed nationally and announced

RESOLVED: to unanimously agree to recommend to full Council a budget of £26,718 for the CF budget, subject to notification of any change

Budget headings	2019/2020	2020/2021
Recreation Grounds and Amenity Areas	19,086	19,093
Burial Grounds	600	445
Clerk/RFO salary + on-costs	7,030	7,180
Total:	26,718	26,718

10. PRECEPT FOR THE PERIOD 1/4/20 TO 31/3/21

Each budget heading was itemised and considered.

RESOLVED: to unanimously agree to recommend to full Council a Precept of £50,006, subject to notification of any change

- Increase in Precept from £44,450 to £50,006
- 12.5% increase in Precept for 2020/21
- Band D charge from £16.48 to £18.54 = £2.05 increase (Charge = 36p x 52 weeks)

11. CEMETERY FEES FOR THE PERIOD: 1/4/20 TO 31/3/21

A comparison of other parish Cemetery fees and details of the Council's Cemetery income over the past 3 ½ years was circulated.

RESOLVED: to unanimously agree to recommend no increase in Cemetery fees for 2020/2021. Income received would be monitored over the next 12 month period

12. DATE FOR RATIFICATION BY FULL COUNCIL

Tuesday, 14 January 2020 – SECOND TUESDAY IN THE MONTH

The meeting closed at 8pm.

Signed by Chairman _____ Date _____