

**PEWSEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE STRATEGY GROUP MEETING
HELD ON 30th OCTOBER 2018
IN THE PARISH OFFICE, BOUVERIE HALL, PEWSEY**

PRESENT: Cllr Mrs Hughes (Chair), Cllr Mrs Stevens, Cllrs Deck, Eyles and Haskell.

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllrs Mrs Dalrymple, Kerry Pycroft, Cllrs Carder, McGarry and Alison Kent (Clerk).

1. NOTED ABSENCE: Cllrs Mrs Carmichael-Owen, Ann Hogg, Mrs Hunt, Cllrs Ford, Hagan, Morris, Smith, Stevens and Stephens.

Cllr Mrs Hughes stated that as only five members were in attendance it was felt recommendations, rather than resolutions, should be made to Full Council on the major discussion points.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST: Cllr Haskell on item 4.

3. MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE STRATEGY GROUP MEETING: All being in agreement, the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd May 2018 were signed as a true record by the Chair.

4. FINANCE:

Current balances as at 30th October: Santander Current Account £75,360.17

Santander Community Instant Reserve Account: £69,850.91

Lloyds Business Account: £514.00

Lloyds Fixed Term Deposit: £60,000.00

Santander Community Instant Reserve Account (Admin): £7,084.48

The budget comparison to 30th September had been circulated. It was noted that all the precept for the year had been received. The cost of the public toilets refurbishment was shown, with £20,000 of earmarked reserves being used towards that cost centre.

Authorisation of payments as listed were proposed by Cllr Mrs Hughes, seconded Cllr Deck, all in favour.

The quotation for the renewal of the telephone and broadband contract with Mainstream Digital was noted and proposed by Cllrs Mrs Hughes, seconded Cllr Haskell, all in favour.

5. BUSINESS PLAN: The draft copy had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting. Cllr Mrs Hughes thanked the Clerk for redesigning the document. Cllr Deck made one minor amendment and it was recommended to put to Full Council for approval.

6. PRECEPT 2019/20: Discussions took place on the proposed figures previously circulated. Cllr Kerry Pycroft asked if the Council was still happy to use the website contractor with the Clerk pursuing amendments to the website that had not yet materialised. The figure of £18,700 for the Village Ranger contract included the ability to increase the hours required by 2 hours per week. The litter budget now included the emptying of the community bin at the fire station as this had become the responsibility of the Parish Council. The cleaner cost was for office cleaning. The budget proposed an increase of £25,000 which was mainly to cover the Village Ranger contract and increase to the Clerk's salary.

4 options were presented. It was unlikely that the tax base would change much. It would be difficult to justify option 4 when general reserves were available. Approximately £6,000 would come from reserves in 2018/19 towards the Village Ranger. There were ringfenced reserves of £20,000 for community enhancement which could be considered to pay for the Village Ranger. Cllr Eyles felt the increase needed to more than normal as it was expected to have large increases in 2020/21 if Wiltshire Council reduced its services in the way it has been suggested. Cllr Carder commented that the council had worked hard to save its reserves over the years and Cllr Deck agreed the Village Ranger contract fitted in with community enhancement.

Cllr Mrs Stevens suggested option 3 would be preferred as the increase was in the middle of what was needed. Cllr Kerry Pycroft said the increase for option 3 equated to £6.07 for the year and that this council was quite low compared to others of a similar size, however, Cllr Deck reminded members that there would also be increases from Wiltshire Council, the police and fire service. Cllr Haskell could not see that there would be any operational savings to be made in the future. The bequest reserves could only be used for footpaths.

If a large increase was required in the future, then it would be prudent to hold a public meeting to gain their view. Members would recommend a 5% precept increase for 2019/20 to Full Council.

7. NORTH STREET & HALLGATE HOUSE CAR PARKS: The Clerk advised that the draft leases for both car parks had been received with very minor amendments from the previous ones. They had not yet been signed as two maintenance issues, which had previously been agreed by Highways, had not yet been completed. Cllr Eyles advised that he was obtaining quotations for one of the repairs and it would be unlikely that Highways would assist any further. Cllr Carder said the Council had a duty to the community to keep the car parks freely available. It would be recommended to Full Council that the leases were signed.

8. LAND AT WAY'S WAY: The Parish Council needed to proceed with the appointment of a solicitor to oversee the land transfer which the Clerk would initiate.

9. TO CONSIDER ANY DONATION REQUESTS: None.

10. CORRESPONDENCE:

All members of the council had been invited to the excellent WW1 Centenary exhibition at the Heritage Centre on 11th November.

There were no other items of general information.

11. FULL COUNCIL INFORMATION: Cllr Haskell reported the closure of Everleigh Household Recycling Centre on 6th November and read a statement which had been sent to the local paper on behalf of the Parish Council, PCAP and CPRE. He had been made aware of a fund-raising concert which might take place and would provide some suggestions of local beneficiaries for the proceeds. The Area Board meeting to be held on 12th November had been postponed.

12. ITEMS VIA THE CLERK: The clerk informed members that a working party would clean the War Memorial on the coming Saturday. Cllr Haskell volunteered to check the play area at Easterton Lane in the absence of Cllr Mrs Hunt.

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 7.57pm after thanking members for attending.

Signed.....

Date.....