

Kennington Parish Council
Oxfordshire
Minutes of the Annual Finance meeting held on
5 December 2019 at 7:30 pm in the Village Centre

Present:

Cllr. Baggott Cllr. Mrs. Buckingham Cllr. Charlett Cllr. Feather Cllr. Gelder
Cllr. Ms Jempson Cllr. Johnston Cllr. Patterson Cllr. Powles Cllr. Russell Cllr. Smith

In Attendance: Rachel Brown (Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Cllr. Cobb, Cllr. Mrs. New, Cllr. Bakewell

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS - None

3. REVISED ESTIMATES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2019-2020

3.1 The Clerk reported on the projected financial position at 1 April 2020.

General Reserves at 1 April 2019	£92,323
Ear Marked Reserves (EMR)	£84,740
Add projected income	£101,150 + £541 £101,691
Less projected expenditure	£47,388 + £39,524 £86,912
Estimated General Reserves at 1 April 2020	£107,102
Ear Marked Reserves (EMR)	£101,978

3.2 This means that the General Reserves in 2020-2021 should be sufficient to allow flexibility in planning expenditure for the next financial year, including the pavilion project.

4. BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2020-2021

The Clerk presented a report giving details of budgeted income and expenditure for 2020-21. Each line of expenditure was explained.

4.1 It had been assumed for draft budget purposes that the precept would be little changed so as to keep the total precept the same as 2019-20, however due to the decrease in the council tax base, this would increase the cost for householders, i.e. the Band D figure would increase from £55.90 to £55.97.

4.2 The Clerk had assumed nominal or no increases in many budgets – details were provided within Appendix 2 and 3.

4.3 Background to the Clerk's salary and the Play Area Warden's hourly wage were provided in Appendix 4.

4.4 Members of the Committee agreed estimated figures in Appendix 2.

4.5 Cllr. Patterson **proposed** that £25,000 should be moved from General Reserves into 329 EMR – Pavilion Project and £15,000 should be moved from General Reserves into 324 EMR – Play Areas towards purchasing new play equipment in the future. This was seconded by Cllr. Johnston and agreed unanimously.

4.6 **It was agreed that** the following amounts from the following budget headings be transferred into Ear Marked Reserves (EMR) on 1 April 2020.

£1,000 from 4211 – Defibrillators to 322 EMR – Defibrillators, giving a total of £1,495.31

£1,500 from new account code 4302 – Traffic Schemes to a new EMR – Traffic Schemes

£2,000 from 4306 – Bollards to 331 EMR – Bollards, giving a total of £5,111.68

£500 from 4360 – Planned Tree Maintenance to 327 EMR – Planned Maintenance, giving a total of £14,480.00

£1,000 from 4415 – Forest Side BMX Dirt Track to 330 EMR – BMX refurbishment/maintenance, giving a total of £4,500.00

£2,000 from 4422 The Links Play Area to 324 EMR – Play equipment, giving a total of £21,500

£12,500 from 4429 – Playfield Road Pavilion Project to 329 EMR – Pavilion Project, giving a total of £77,991

£1,500 from 4502 – Bus Shelters to 326 EMR – Asset Replacement, giving a total of £19,640.25

Cllr. Charlett moved that the press and public be excluded in order to prevent the disclosure to them of confidential information relating to parish council employees. The Clerk left the room.

- 4.7 It was agreed that** the Clerk's salary would move to salary point 23, in line with the national scales, from 1 May 2020. This was proposed by Cllr. Johnston, seconded by Cllr. Gelder and agreed unanimously.

The Clerk returned to the room.

- 4.8 It was agreed that** the Play Area Warden's hourly rate would increase from £8.99 to £9.12, being an increase of 1.5%. This was proposed by Cllr. Patterson, seconded by Cllr. Smith and agreed unanimously.

5. NEW EXPENDITURE FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2020-2021

5.1 The following items were agreed:

- Scheme of replacing bus shelters
- Traffic schemes
- Fly tipping (removal of waste)

5.2 The following items were suggested:

- Redecorating Forest Side
- New benches at Forest Side and Playfield Rd playing fields – clerk to obtain quotes
- Different ideas for the flowers in the village, such as employing a contractor to plant these and maintain them – includes planters and war memorial flower beds – clerk to ask for prices from contractors
- Christmas tree to be set up by someone else – look at formalising and possibly a better tree
- CCTV at play area car parks to discourage fly tipping
- The Football Club's storage container at Playfield Rd could be made more attractive
- Increasing the grass cutting up the slip road to the end of the slip road, and including this in the regular cuts
- Requesting a large weight from Oxfordshire County Council for the slip road to stop cars parking on the verge
- A village award for an individual or organisation for an idea to 'save the planet' – to be added as an agenda item in the new year

6. TO APPROVE LIST OF DIRECT DEBIT PAYMENTS

6.1 The 2020-21 Direct Debit payments was provisionally approved.

7. PARISH PRECEPT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2020-2021

7.1 The provisional council tax base for 2020-21 is £1,691.80 for Kennington Parish.

7.2 A proposal was made by Cllr. Patterson to raise the precept by 1.5% to £96,109 which was seconded by Cllr. Johnston. An amended proposal was made by Cllr. Feather, which was seconded by Cllr. Smith. A vote was taken and not agreed (2 votes for to 8 against and 1 abstention). The former proposal became the substantive motion, which was proposed by Cllr. Patterson, seconded by Cllr. Johnston and agreed 9 votes for to 2 against.

$$\frac{\pounds 96,109}{\pounds 1,691.80} = \pounds 56.81 \text{ per annum for a Band D property}$$

Meeting Closed – 8:23 pm

Signed **Date**