



Councillors in attendance: Chairman: Paddy Walker (PW), Elizabeth Brown (EB), Sue May (SM) and Steve Williamson (SW).  
Clerk: Debbie Harknett.

Chairman: Paddy Walker  
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CONTACT

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- 1) **Recording of the meeting** – it was noted that the meeting would not be recorded.
- 2) **Representations from the public** - None.
- 3) **Apologies for absence** - Fiona Dix (FD) and Max Harwood (MH).
- 4) **Declarations of interest** - SW expressed an interest in Rake Village Hall.
- 5) **Minutes of last meeting** - The minutes of the last meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2017 were approved and signed as a true record.
- 6) **Chairman's report** -
  - a) PW reported at just over half way through the year the anticipated surplus at year-end would increase the £60,000 funds held (including projects) by an additional £11,000. It was agreed it is prudent for reserves to be equivalent to a year's precept.
  - b) It was noted £11,000 is held for RATA though some has been spent on planters and signs have been ordered. Other costs will include trees and possibly the cemetery hedge cutting.
  - c) £5,000 of Operation Watershed money is still held.
  - d) It was agreed to get estimates for a replacement bus shelter in the village. PW and SM to obtain prices.
- 7) **Review of expenditure against budget 17/18**
- 8) **and budget for 18/19**
  - a) PW and the Clerk distributed documents with the year-to-date spend and suggested budget which were considered together on an individual item basis.
  - b) It was noted the insurance had cost less than budgeted so PW proposed a virement to move the remaining £646 to the bus shelter fund. This was seconded by SW and agreed by all.
  - c) EB noted the website cost is paid via her personal credit card as it was the only way they would accept payment when it was established. It was agreed to look at alternatives.
  - d) PW reported the Youth Club are still without a leader though they continue to try to appoint somebody.
  - e) EB asked that training information be resent to Councillors as a reminder as no training had been undertaken in the current year.
  - f) There was a lot of discussion about the level of grant funding and the Clerk expressed concerns that the current budget of over £7,250 (though not all spent) was a large proportion of our overall budget. It was therefore agreed to reduce next year's grant budget total to £5,250 including the PCC grants.
  - g) SW's proposal of **resolution 'to maintain the same budget level/precept as previous year'** was seconded by EB and unanimously approved. Budget proposed of £30,925 is £55 less than previous year.
  - h) Budget to go before December Full Council when the tax base is known so the per household calculation can be included and therefore the % change that will be shown on each bill.
- 9) **Discretionary funding 17/18**
  - a) Rake Village Hall have requested a grant of £500 towards parquet floor repairs. SW withdrew from the table. After discussion, SM proposal of a £500 grant was seconded by PW with EB also in favour.

- b) Rogate Village Hall have requested £550 towards the cost of the White Horse survey. It was agreed this was a village asset that was identified in the Neighbourhood Plan as being a key requirement of the village. PW proposed the £550 grant, EB seconded and all in favour.
- c) Max Harwood had requested a grant for the school who are seeking to replace play equipment at a cost of £30,000. The committee were not averse to considering but felt the project was in its early stages and more information would be required as to costs and other contributors/grants etc before a decision could be made as it would involve a number of players.
- d) Rogate PCC have again requested additional funding (£2,000 in total) to cover their anticipated shortfall. It was noted that Terwick PCC is separate and are financially better positioned. After discussion, and agreement that the Parish Council could ultimately be responsibly, SW's proposal of a £2,000 grant was seconded by EB and unanimously approved. PW to talk to the PCC to confirm this year requirement and arrange a joint meeting with them, him and SW to see if it is possible for the to reduce the overheads – possibly with a mower cut less.

**10) Date of next meeting** – The next Finance Committee Meeting was scheduled to be held at 7.30pm on Monday 29 January 2018 in Rogate Village Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

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**Chairman**

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**Date**