



Meeting held via 'Zoom' video conferencing due to Coronavirus lockdown.

Councillors in attendance: Chairman: Steve Williamson (SW), Elizabeth Brown (EB), Adrian Collins (AC), Max Harwood (MH) and Gerard McCloskey (GM).

Clerk: Debbie Harknett.

There were no members of the public in attendance.

Meeting started at 4.30pm.

Chairman: Steve Williamson  
steve@thestepsrake.co.uk

www.rogateparishcouncil.gov.uk

Clerk: Debbie Harknett  
clerk@rogateparishcouncil.gov.uk

- 1) **Recording of the meeting** - it was noted that the meeting would not be recorded.
- 2) **Apologies for absence** - none.
- 3) **Declarations of interest** – none.
- 4) **Minutes of last meeting** – The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020 were approved and signed as a true record.
  - The Chairman clarified S137 payments in response to GM's question – these are payments which are not purchases and for which the Council has no specific power but the council considers will bring direct benefit to the area, part of it or some of its inhabitants. The Clerk added there are set annual limits which are a lot higher than our spend.
  - It was noted the risk management policy is ongoing.
- 5) **Representations from the public** - none.
- 6) **Chairman's report** – none
- 7) **Review of budget/expenditure against budget 2019/20 & audit**

The Chairman went through expenditure year-to-date and the over-spends were discussed:

  - a) The £48,000 balance carried forward at the end of the 2019/20 financial year has reduced from £65,000 in 2018/19 thereby reducing reserves by £17,000. One question asked by the auditor is to explain if we are carrying more than double the annual precept (£30,925) – we no longer are.
  - b) The largest unexpected expenditure incurred was for costs involved in the new website.
  - c) Operation Watershed overspend was taken from watershed under-spend in 2016 that had been held within general reserves.
  - d) We have purchased four new bus shelters and a new roller log for the village hall play area.
  - e) The sundry receipt of £2,000 was repayment of a grant made to Rake Village hall towards replacing the floor which they decided they didn't need to go ahead with.
  - f) RATA funds will be carried forward for planned additional street furniture and to help meet costs of the Rake and Hillbrow Community Highways scheme.
  - g) SW understands the Parish Council should not be expected to meet the costs of the neighbourhood plan referendum.
  - h) CLT funds have been returned to the Trust who have now opened their own bank account.
  - i) Therefore, it was agreed the finance committee accepted the overspends without concern and as there were no further questions SW's proposal of **resolution 'SW to sign the Income & Expenditure and Balance Sheets'** was seconded by GM and unanimously approved.
- 8) **Consideration of helping fund residents post Covid-19 party**
  - a) There was discussion about the suggestion about helping to fund a party and the possibility of Rake holding a separate event. However, it was felt that it was too soon to consider as we have no idea how/when the current lockdown will end.
  - b) SW noted it was likely that local organisations/clubs will need support as a result of the financial implications of the lockdown.

**9) Consideration of insurance quotes**

- a) MH went through the insurance renewal quotes obtained by the Clerk which vary in price and cover. The lowest annual premium is with AXA at £700; Aviva at £744; Ecclesiastical £875 and Hiscox the highest at £1,000. Zurich (our current provider) offer £784.98 for 3-year deal with lower excess and higher cover levels. Zurich are the biggest provider of insurance to local authorities with cover designed to meet their needs.
- b) In response to AC's question it was noted the last claim we made was 7/10 years ago in relation to legal costs so we can't really gauge current customer service though they are always happy to answer our questions.
- c) After consideration, MH's proposal of **resolution 'to accept quote from Zurich on a 3-year deal'** was seconded by EB and unanimously approved.

**10) Date of next meeting** - The next Finance Committee Meeting was scheduled to be held at 7.30pm on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2020 in Rogate Village Hall Pavilion.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 5.08pm.

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**Chairman**

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**Date**