



SHERE PARISH COUNCIL

*Serving the villages of Gomshall,
Holmbury St. Mary, Peaslake, Shere
and a large part of Abinger Hammer*

Suzanne Hoyland
Parish Clerk/Finance Officer
Telephone: 01483 203431
clerk@shereparishcouncil.gov.uk
www.shereparishcouncil.gov.uk

Tanyard Hall
30 Station Road
Gomshall
Guildford
Surrey
GU5 9LF

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING 7PM WEDNESDAY 28th OCTOBER 2020

Held remotely using video conferencing facility ZOOM (Coronavirus Act 2020)

MINUTES

Present: Councillors B Andrews, C Brooke, C Carlisle, J Cross, M Taylor-Cotter and R Davey. Clerk & RFO S Hoyland. Vice Chairman Councillor B Andrews began the proceedings until Chairman Councillor R Davey arrived

To accept apologies and reasons for absence in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, s 85(1) (LGA 1972) – Councillor R Smith

Declarations of Disclosable Interests regarding any of the items on the agenda (Localism Act 2011, ss.27-34 and the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012. (SI 2012 No. 1464)) – **Councillors B Andrews and M Taylor-Cotter disclosed an interest, as committee members involved with the Wasp Bus**

Minutes of previous meeting (Local Government Act 1972, Sch 12, para 41(1)) – **Approved** the minutes of the meeting held on 24th June 2020

Councillor R Davey arrived, apologised for his late arrival and continued to Chair the meeting

Short adjournment for the public to address the Council regarding any matter on the agenda – None present

Review of list Standing Orders and Direct Debits – Reviewed and Agreed

Bank Authorisation – to consider authorising Samantha Robins to make payments in the Clerk's absence (together with two councillors) and to amend financial regulations accordingly – **Agreed and Recommended to Council**

Financial Regulations – to consider amendment to increase the limit from £1,000 to £1,500 for jobs requiring three quotes. Full council approval will still be required for all projects over £1,000 – It was **Noted** that the internal auditor stressed that this can't be seen as a way of avoiding getting value for money but the committee recognised that this was not the case but was because the costs of small jobs had risen and that the cheapest quotes were consistently now coming above the £1,000 threshold. **Agreed and Recommended to Council**

Financial Year 2020/21 (current)

- a) **Received** an up to date report on expenditure in comparison with budget
- b) **Noted** current general and earmarked reserves
- c) **Considered** any further expenditure for the year 2020/21.

It was **Noted** that the committee was supportive of continuing and the drop-in centre and was aware of the increase in costs regarding the public toilets and extra coronavirus expenses. It was also **Agreed and Recommended to Council** that when the works to the path and drainage by Shere Surgery are carried out, that the agreed contribution

of £4,237 (5th March Full Council item 19/215) to Surrey County Council towards the works, would be divided between the ward funds.

Budget Setting for the year 2021/22 – to consider the proposed budget and reserves for 2021/22 - **Agreed and Recommended to Council** the attached budget Appendix 1. It was also **Noted** that the expenses for the Ducks in Shere would be taken from North Ward funds EMR in the next financial year

Agreed - Earmarked Reserves (EMR) for 2021/22 would be set March 2021 before the end of the financial year, to take into account any projects for 2021/22 and projects not completed this financial year which will be carried over to next year

Precept 2021/22 – to formulate recommendation to be submitted to full Council on 10th November 2020 - **Agreed and Recommended to Council** that the precept for 2021/22 be set at £140,240 representing an approximate increase (depending on the final tax base) of £5.21 per year for a Band D property, which represents an extra 10p per week (Appendix 2). The rise reflected the new budgeted expense of the Drop-in Centre (supported and considered by the committee to be vital support for the community), the ongoing additional coronavirus related expenses, the increasing costs of maintaining the Council's existing services and the possible loss of the Local Council Tax Support Scheme.

Date of next meeting – March 2021 at Tanyard Hall, 30 Station Road, Gomshall GU5 9LF to set the earmark reserves ahead of the new financial year and 7pm Wednesday 23rd June 2021 for budget monitoring.

Councillor M Taylor-Cotter apologised for leaving the meeting mid-way through.