



HEATH & REACH PARISH COUNCIL

FINANCE COMMITTEE

January 2017 Minutes Meeting held on Tuesday 10th January at Heath Village Barn 1pm

1. Present Cllrs Inns, Thyer, Hawes, Green. Clerk in attendance.
2. Apologies for Absence None
3. Declarations of Interest: Cllr Inns declared her position as a trustee for United Charities regarding discussion about a new bus shelter on Birds Hill.
4. Review of financial records for the period 1st April -31st December
The balances had been checked at the full Parish Council meeting on 9th January and the finances are in order. The reserves are healthy with provision for the traffic calming, precept reserve and election fund.
5. Precept and Budget Planning for 2017/18: Central Bedfordshire Council have already announced a 3.1% increase in council tax to provide for social care and the Parish Council are conscious that the precept should not increase as well. The committee and clerk went through each line item of the budget comparing actual and projected costs. There followed a discussion on possible projects to benefit the village, namely
 - Provision of new swing at Thrift Road for older children (£2000)
 - Provision of rugby practice posts at Bryants Lane (£1000)
 - Cllr Thyer suggested that the clock tower will need major works in the next few years so it was agreed to make an annual provision to build up a fund to finance this. (£2000)
 - Further traffic calming measures were discussed i.e. speed cameras and/or pinch points into the village at an estimated cost circa £25000. It was agreed to make provision for these works which could accumulate over the next few years (£5000). Speed indicator devices are being installed in the next month (from 2016-17 budget) and the impact of these need to be assessed
 - The building at Bryants Lane was also discussed and at some point the existing building will become unusable, again an annual provision to build up a fund was agreed. (£2000) It was also suggested that grants may be available.
 - Provision was also made for the bush shelter at Birds Hill (£3500)

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The Clerk is to process the numbers and circulate to the committee for approval prior to seeking the approval of the full Parish Council.

6. Review of projects None

7. Any Other Business None

Meeting closed at 2.15pm

Francesca Sheppard Clerk

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