

DRAFT Minutes of the meeting of Maresfield Parish Council's Finance & Administration Committee, held on Monday 6th November 2017 at 7.30pm in the Parish Office Nutley

Present: - Cllr M Craddock (Chairman), Cllr D Barlow, Cllr D Watson, Clerk T Allen.

- 1 Public session** – Mr L Wilcox & Mr R Pipe regarding road safety measures for Crowborough Road.

Mr Wilcox presented a paper requesting that the Council's Road Safety project fund is retained at its current level and that £20K of this fund is used for defining, costing and proposing funding for a project proposal for Parish wide consultation.

After discussion, the Chairman stated that this request will be taken into account as part of the Council's 2018/19 budget/precept setting exercise.

(The Chairman closed the public session and opened the meeting).

- 2 Apologies for absence.** – Cllr K Ogden, Cllr Ms G Hallin.

- 3 Declarations of interest** - Cllr Barlow as Director and Trustee of NWCTP Ltd.

- 4 Adoption of the minutes of the meeting held on 10th October 2017 - It was resolved** to adopt the minutes as a true record.

- 5 Matters arising from these minutes not elsewhere on the Agenda** – Re. Item 1, the Chairman noted that nothing further had been heard from FGMC concerning its development project for the Fords Green Pavilion.

Re. Item 7, Cllr Barlow noted that he had provided the requested NWCTP figures.

Re. Item 7, Clerk to finalise 'ball-park' costings for the use of rubber chippings at Fords Green play area.

- 6 Review of Month 7 – 2017/18 Interim Financial Reports** – The Bank Reconciliation, Cash Book and management reports for Month 7 were received and reviewed; the Chairman stated that he was not aware of any issues that needed to be raised.

- 7 Budget 2018/19:-**

- 7.1 General considerations for new Budget** – It was noted that, at its last meeting, Council expressed its support for the Committee's approach to the development of the 2018/19 budget to-date; no additional input having been received from Councillors.

- 7.2 Grants/donations – to agree recommended allocations for 2018/19** – The recommendations of the Sub-Committee were reviewed and **it was resolved** to submit them to Council at its next meeting.

Cllr Watson asked whether, in view of reduced funding for schools, the Parish Council may be minded to make a grant to each of its two schools. The Clerk explained that the Parish Council does not have a Power/Duty in this respect; this sits clearly with the County Council, therefore also preventing the use of the Power of General Competence. The Chairman noted that the exact financial position of the schools is unknown; do they have reserves?; are they under financial threat?

It was noted that Danehill PC had made a grant to its school; Clerk to look into this matter in more detail.

- 7.3 Detailed review of projected 2017/18 outturn and 2018/19 budget forecast requirement** – The latest projected end-of-year and new budget figures were discussed.

It was noted that these figures resulted in an increase in Precept of around 49% (£18.50 p.a.) for Band D properties, compared with a reduction of around 43% (£28.50 p.a.) for 2017/18; due to the fact that the Precept for 2017/18 was reduced in order to return some of the Road Safety project monies to Parishioners.

It was resolved that these latest proposals for the new budget/precept should be submitted to Council at its November 2017 meeting.

- 7.4 Consideration of level of General Reserve** – It was noted that the proposed figure of £37K for retained reserves, although lower than that for 2017/18 (£44K), was within the required range of £28K-£50K.
- 8 Allocation of remaining Youth funds** – The Clerk reported that Rev. Cornell had stated that the structure of the Youth Groups is being reviewed and that at present no additional funding is required from the Parish Council.
- 9 Matters arising from the meeting for public communication** – Chairman to remind Parishioners that they are welcome to attend the December 2017 meetings of this Committee and Council, where it is expected that the budget/precept for 2018/19 will be approved.
- 10 Date of next meeting** – **It was resolved** that the next meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday 11th December 2017 (originally scheduled for Tuesday 12th December 2017).

(There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20:34).