Finance committee

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held on 6th October 2020 at 7:30pm. Due to Covid-19 regulations the meeting was held via Zoom. The Chair of the Finance Committee; Cllr Rosemarie Chaffers-Jones; presided.

Present: Cllr Anne McCreary, Cllr Jackie Brown, Cllr Nicola Jennings, Cllr Robin Young, Cllr Zoe Storer and Mrs Vanessa Owens (Clerk)

The meeting was called to review the Council expenditure against the budget. The Clerk had produced a budget sheet. Each budget heading was noted. Items identified were:

Website: Clerk is waiting on training for the new website; due to Covid this has been delayed. Councillors noted they are not happy with the email system and requested that the Clerk look at alternative provision and include in next years budget.

Grants: pensioners dinner £1000 will not be spent this year. It was agreed that the Council could not plan anything at this time and funds would be reserved for a future event.

Potentially there will be underspend; this would be beneficial to local organisations that have been affected by the covid19 situation.

Maintenance, Village Improvements and Contingency: Cllr Rosemarie Chaffers-Jones expressed her concerns about spending at the moment; due to the current situation the Council cannot predict what is happening and it is important to have money in reserve. Councillors agreed that it was important to undertake the necessary maintenance responsibilities but to not undertake any additional commitments at this time.

Footpaths: the underspend is for the poetry trail improvements and it was agreed to put in reserve for when the work can be completed.

Bus shelters: the cleaning has not been done and the question was asked if we need a different contractor. It was agreed that these don’t belong to the community council and it was the responsibility of the County to clean. The Clerk noted that the brick shelter in Blaenannerch belonged to the community council. Cllr Nicola Jennings asked who cleans the road signs and noted that some areas were cleaning their own.

Audit: Cllr McCreary advised that she was waiting on the accountant to complete the annual return; the Clerk had requested that it be reviewed as the figures did not add up. The revised report is now ready and will be sent out.

Cllr Rosemarie Chaffers Jones requested that the importance of the Financial Regulations needs to be reinforced in a future meeting and the requirement of the Council to comply with financial regulations and the importance of disclosing their pecuniary interest. She noted that councillors should ensure they complete the declarations forms and register of interest.

Clerk was requested to contact One Voice Wales to enquire if they could facilitate a training programme for the council. Clerk advised that One Voice Wales were producing good guidance documents.

The Finance committee agreed that there was a need to ensure that better quality Christmas trees were purchased this year.

Cllr Anne McCreary requested that the debit card be ordered and the Clerk requested that Cllr Rosemarie Chaffers-Jones be included as a signatory and to have access to the online banking. Clerk to organise.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.25pm