

AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL

FINANCE ADVISORY SUB COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 24 JANUARY 2017

Commenced 8.20pm

MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Balcombe (Chairman), Ms Dorrington, Elvy, Mrs Gadd, Gledhill, Hammond, Jones, Mrs Phibbs, Rillie, Smith, Winnett, Wright

In attendance: Mr Harris, Clerk Mrs Collier, Deputy Clerk

Apologies: Cllrs Base, Mrs Brooks, Homewood, Shelley, Walker

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1. Apologies

Apologies were received and reasons accepted as follows: Cllrs Base (TMBC meeting), Mrs Brooks (care of elderly relative), Homewood (KCC meeting), Shelley (holiday), Walker (TMBC meeting).

2. Declarations of Interests – There were no declarations additional to those contained in the Register of Members' Interests.

3. Section 137 Donation requests

RBLI – Veterans Accommodation - £4000 for garden furniture. **Agreed.** Request to be made for acknowledgement of the Council's donation to be made within the garden. **Clerk**

4. Hall Grants/Loans

St Albans Church – Request of grant payment for fencing (approximately £900) and new noticeboard (approximately £1400). **Agreed in principle.** Up to date quotations have been requested.

5. Section 137 Micro Grant requests

Cllr Walker – RBLI – Garden of Honour concerts – Contribution towards £600 per concert. **Agreed** that one concert should be sponsored by the Parish Council. To be funded from Aylesford South local members microgrants (Cllr Balcombe, Mrs Gadd, Ms Dorrington, Hammond and Walker). **Clerk**

6. 2016/17 Financial Comparison April 2016 – January 2017

Tabled and attached at **Appendix A** to the bound copy of these minutes. Noted and no matters arising.

7. Financial Matters arising from Other Committees – No report to this meeting.

8. Bank Authorisation and Future Charges

Clerk reported following his meeting with Metro Bank representative.

The decision to look at alternative banking arrangements has been driven by the withdrawal of free banking from Nat West, the impending costs of all future transactions both credit and debit and the very low rate of interest currently received on the Council's considerable reserves.

The Clerk and Finance Officer met with a representative of Metro Bank which was informative and professional. Metro Bank does not have a credit rating as they do not borrow between banks and only loan money they actually have. There would be protection up to £75,000, the figure in line with most other similar types of bank. The Council's current account would only hold over £75,000 for short periods of time twice a year when precept payments are received from TMBC.

There would be no charges as the Council's number/amount of transactions per month fall well below the levels at which they would start charging.

The Clerk would recommend paying a £10 a month charge for their 2 person authorisation system of payments (which would be the Clerk and the Finance Officer) and which would include direct read only access at any time for the Chairman to the Council's statement of accounts (this would enable spot checks to be undertaken by the Chairman at any time).

The Clerk recommended that the Council move its current account to Metro Bank and make the payment of £10 a month for the authorisation system detailed above as an additional security measure. This was proposed by Cllr Elvy and seconded Cllr Ms Dorrington.

Agreed unanimously.

Clerk

The Clerk then referred to the Council's reserves of approximately £300,000. He is still researching the investment of these funds but believes they should be split into £75,000 sections and placed with different banks – some with instant access, others with fixed short term periods and therefore different levels of interest. There are certainly a number of accounts that could improve on current Nat West interest rates.

It was proposed by Cllr Balcombe, seconded Cllr Elvy, that the strategy whereby the Council's reserves are invested in a number of different banks (with the FSA £75K protection), with a number of different access arrangements maximising interest and up to a maximum of £75k in each account, be agreed and that the Clerk be authorised to implement.

Agreed unanimously

Clerk

9. Any Other Business/Correspondence – No reports to the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.47pm.