
Notes of the Informal Advisory Meeting of the Council

Held remotely (via Zoom) on

Thursday 13th January 2022 at 7:30pm

Present:

Cllr Duncan Ault, Cllr Vicky Evans, Cllr Bob Felstead, Cllr Steve Goodwill, Cllr Katherine Howard, Cllr Jan Lepley, Cllr Gary Scott, Cllr Chris Turner and Clare Smith (Clerk).

This meeting was being held in an advisory capacity to allow Members to express their opinion prior to the Clerk using delegated authority whilst the Council has reverted to online meetings due to the prevalence of the Omicron variant.

1. Apologies for Absence – there were no apologies.

2. Public Participation – there were no members of the public present.

3. Finance

3.1 December 2021 Receipts and Payments

The Clerk circulated the lists of payments that have been made under delegated authority. A list of receipts received during the month of December was also circulated.

3.2 Bank Reconciliation December 2021

This was circulated and it was noted that the bank reconciliation balanced and there were no unrepresented payments.

3.3 Budget Review

Attached are the various finance reports for the end of the third quarter of 2021/22 to the end of December. The precept was approved at the December Council meeting at £85 for Band D residences with an agreed total of 3014 residences. The precept demand has now been submitted to BMDC. This has now been amended to reflect the agreed changes at the December Full Council Meeting. The amendments were to the precept agreed at £85 (increase of £3: 3.7 % from 2021/22) to bring in a revenue of £256,190. The traffic management costs have been reduced to £15,000 resulting in an overall deficit of £6710 for the year.

3rd Quarter and Latest Estimates for 2021/22.

The overall income and expenditure figures for this year at the end of December and the latest estimates for the end of the year are little different to those previously presented.

The overall surplus for the year (taking into account the carried forward Greenway reserve of £25500 is £24594 (budget £7194).

Some encouraging figures from lets in both the Queens Hall and Library have been partly offset by increased costs of salaries.

Some budgeted costs have not been needed or have been deferred (election. traffic management and footpaths).

However, the main issue this year is the lower capital spend to date. Whilst appreciating that some of this underspend is due to labour supply and legal difficulties we must plan early and carry out a programme of capital expenditure that matches our budgeted forecast.

This particularly relates to the following:

Building projects £0 spend to date out of £10000 budget

Greenway £9700 spend out of £30,500 budget

Grants and projects £2600 out of £8000 budget

Roundhouse £360 out of £3,000 budget

Q.H. £15000 out of £22000.

4. Queens Hall Update

The Clerk informed Members that two quotes have now been received for the work needed to the Ladies' toilet and kitchen at the Queens Hall. Despite contacting several plumbers/tradesmen to request a quote it has not been possible to get three quotes. The Clerk informed members that she would be accepting the quote from Richardson Gas Services under delegated authority and requesting that the work commence as soon as possible.

5. Roundhouse Update

There are some improvements required to the interior of the Roundhouse such as removal of the benches, upgrading the electrics, installing new heaters and cleaning the floor. Quotes are required for the above work – the Clerk will contact electricians as a starting point and bring quotes to Council.

6. Wharfedale Greenway

Unfortunately, there is still no news on the purchase of land from Otley Golf Club. The Clerk will contact the secretary at the Golf Club for an update. BMDC have informed Bob Felstead that they are looking to approve the planning application w/c 24th January 2022 which is excellent news.

7. Any other business -

A Platinum Jubilee meeting was planned for 31st January at 6:30pm. Cllr Wild reported that the Scouts & Guides have been in touch to say that they are keen to support any events which we have planned. The Teas on the Green event usually takes place a few before but there was a possibility that the Duck Race could be moved to the Jubilee weekend and Teas on the Green could be held on the same day. The Clerk will send an invite out to Councillors.

Next Council meeting **10th February 7:30pm** – it is hoped that this will take place face to face in the library, however the Clerk will advise nearer to the time of the meeting taking into account Covid rates in our area at that time.

Decisions to be made using Clerk's Delegated Authority:

- 1.** To make all payments listed in the Receipts and Payments report as circulated.
- 2.** To accept the quote from Richardson Gas Services for improvements to the Queens Hall toilets and kitchen.