

AUDLEM PARISH COUNCIL

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 12th December 2016 at 7.30pm

Small Meeting Room – Audlem Methodist Hall, Shropshire St, Audlem

1. Apologies were received from Cllrs Christie and Consterdine.
2. Declarations of Interest – Cllr Hill is a member of the ADAS committee
3. Grants – the grant applications and recommendations made by the sub-committee were discussed and the following resolutions were made:
 - ASET £1,000 – unanimously approved.
 - Audlem Carnival Committee £500 – unanimously approved.
 - Audlem Music Festival Committee £1,250 – unanimously approved.
 - Audlem Scout & Guide Hall £1,250 - more information required.
 - Audlem Bowling Club £3,000 – a grant of £1,500 (the maximum allowed under the Grant Policy) was unanimously approved.
 - ADAS/AIB - £1,000 for 2017 seasonal bedding – unanimously approved with the caveat that the disposal of any bulbs and plants be widely advertised within the community.
 - ADAS - £804 towards Christmas Display – grant of £500 was unanimously approved
 - Audlem Youth Club – the Parish Council is keen to help the Youth Club but paying the ongoing running costs is not appropriate so it was agreed that representatives of the Parish Council should meet with members of the Youth Club committee and the Public Hall Committee to explore possible alternatives.
4. Budget 2017-18
 - The draft budget was considered and elements were discussed.
 - Cllr Thompson brought up the roadside condition on the outskirts of the village, and suggested that the Parish Council may wish to fund an outside company to carry out additional clearing. After some discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Thompson should look into the feasibility and costs involved in the first instance. It was agreed that £400 be allocated as a donation to the Scouts in recognition of them delivering the Parish newsletters four times a year.
 - The previously agreed grant and interest-free loan of £10,000 each for APHax were discussed. The grant will be paid before the current year end (31.3.17) and it was unanimously agreed that, in light of the playing field lease not including the car park, the interest-free loan should be converted to a second grant of £10,000 payable in the next financial year (2017-18).
 - The PID costs were discussed, enquiries will be made into the future of this service.
5. Projects – It was agreed that £4,500 be allocated to the provision of 2 SIDs and commissioning of 2 traffic speed surveys.
 - It was agreed to allocate £10,000 for project(s). The Councillors agreed to consider and investigate possible projects, and bring ideas to the January meeting, initial ideas included

outdoor gym apparatus, improved street cleaning equipment and new goal posts.

6. Precept 2017-18

The anticipated taxbase level for 2017-18 is greater than that of 2016-17 and this means that, if the precept sum requested remains the same, the amount charged to each household in the Parish would fall. The Clerk will provide figures for Councillors to compare this with an alternative option for the precept to be raised so that each household pays the same as last year. The precept will be resolved upon at the January meeting.

The public part of the meeting was then completed and closed. Page 3 of these minutes contains the minutes of Part 2 of the meeting and are therefore not published.

(PART 2: The Committee may decide that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items pursuant to Section 100(A)4 of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 and public interest would not be served in publishing the information.)

PART 2: The Committee may decide that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items pursuant to Section 100(A)4 of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 and public interest would not be served in publishing the information.

7. Staffing & Personnel

Cllr Jones reported that as a result of a benchmarking exercise in consultation with ChALC, it was recommended that the Clerk's role be regraded to LSC 2, on the bottom increment 26, and this be backdated to April 2016. This was unanimously agreed. It was also agreed to round up the hours from 49.7hrs per month to 50hrs per month.

It was also agreed that the Lengthsman's pay be kept in line with previous commitments and be 50p above the hourly rate of the National Living Wage, which results in a backdated pay rise to £7.70/hr from October 2016 and then a further rise in April 2017 to £8.00/hr. It was also agreed that training for the lengthsman be sought and budgeted for.