

Kingswear Parish Council



Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting of the Council held at the Sarah Roope Trust Rooms on 23rd October 2018 at 6.00pm.

Present: E Jones, L Maurer, L Payne, B Longland

Apologies: J Henshall

In Attendance: Sue Balsdon – Clerk to the Council

F/23.10/1 - The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

F/23.10/2 - To receive any apologies for absence from the Meeting.

The Council Meeting was suspended to allow members of the public to ask questions and make representations to the Council:

There were no members of public present.

The Council reconvened to discuss the following items:

F/23.10/3 To discuss ways to reduce spend.

The Clerk reported that the largest cost to the Council is for their employees. If the Council were to reduce the Clerk's hours to 25, this would produce a saving of £3.9k. The total staff cost would reduce to £18.1k and would be less than the staff cost paid in 14/15 despite there being annual inflationary increases in pay rates and also the additional cost of a compulsory workplace pension.

The Clerk proposed a timesheet be completed to assist the Council in better understanding the precise activities which are undertaken and to establish the average number of hours worked. The results of this exercise will then be used as a basis for looking at ways to reduce the Clerk's workload and therefore reduce cost.

F/23.10/4 To discuss ways to maximize Council income:

Funding opportunities – Communities Together Fund

The Clerk advised that the Town and Parish Fund has been re-launched as the Communities Together Fund. The key changes with the new Communities Together Fund are:-

- The fund is for new ideas and projects, with an emphasis on working together (as groups, communities, Parishes and Towns).
- Town and Parish Councils will be expected to promote the Communities Together Fund to groups within their areas, and to work with these groups to bring forward new ideas and projects that will benefit their local areas.
- Devon County Council has approved £1 per elector, and South Hams District Council 10p per elector. Kingswear Parish Council have 986 Electors which means there could be up to £1,085 available to apply for.

The Clerk noted that applications must be submitted by Noon on Friday 14th December 18. Decisions on grants will be made in January 19.

Maximise income from existing services

Councillors confirmed that an annual inflationary increase is made to fees charged for moorings and cemetery income. The Clerk agreed to research cemetery fees charged by other Parish Councils within South Hams to ensure our charges were at a comparable level.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the Meeting.

Minutes approved

Signed: Chairman of the Council