

Newdigate Parish Council

Minutes of Finance Committee Meeting held in the Village Hall at 7pm on Tuesday 4 August 2020

Present: Mr Bill Kear (Chairman), Mr Phill Crutcher, Mr William Harmsworth,
Mr Robin Gardner, Clerk

1. **Apologies for Absence:** None.
2. **Minutes of previous Finance Committee meeting held 6 January 2020:** The minutes of the previous Finance Committee meeting were agreed at the meeting of the full Parish Council on 13 January 2020. There were no matters arising.
3. **Clerk's conditions of employment:** A confidential report from the clerk was discussed and the proposals were approved.
4. **Review of income and expenditure to date and estimated expenditure to 31 March 2021:** A document showing the current financial situation for the period 1 April to 31 July 2020 was reviewed (Annex 1). Community projects against which there are earmarked sums of expenditure for the current financial year were discussed. It was agreed that the sum of £3,000 set aside for the Community Centre is adequate. A resident has offered funding towards the upkeep of the Brickworks Nature Reserve. It was therefore agreed that the sum of £2,500 allocated from Parish Council funds will be adequate. A meeting with Surrey Wildlife Trust to progress the agreement for joint management of the Nature Reserve is set for 17 August.
5. **Possible expenditure on future projects and an increase in precept requirement for the financial year April 2021 to March 2022:** It was agreed that the most important concern currently is the need to reduce traffic speeds in the Village. The survey conducted last year by the Parish Council resulted in a list of traffic calming measures favoured by residents. However, speed calming measures are expensive and Surrey CC Highways have no funds available. The Parish Council has the power to contribute financially to traffic calming schemes.¹

Councillors discussed the possible reaction of residents if a significant increase in the Parish Council's precept is requested for this purpose. However, it was thought likely there would be public support for such an increase next year. In the meantime, it was agreed to spend the funds available in the current year on providing more speed warning signs. The clerk was asked to write to the Police in response to a recent email about setting up with a speed gun to monitor traffic in the Village where possible.

6. **Any other business:** None.

The meeting ended at 7.25pm.

¹ Local Government and Rating Act 1997, s.30 Traffic calming works. After s.274 of the Highways Act 1980 there is inserted "274A Contributions by parish or community councils. A parish or community council may contribute towards any expense incurred or to be incurred by a highway authority in constructing, removing or maintaining – (a) traffic calming works, or (b) other works (including signs or lighting) required in connection with traffic calming works, if, in the opinion of the council, the expenditure will be of benefit to their area."