**Minutes of Finance Committee Meeting – 15th November 2021**

**Conducted via Zoom**

**Present:** Cllr M Woods, Cllr P Morris, Cllr T Sexton and Clerk

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Cllr A Parrington
2. **Matters Arising**
3. The Clerk had produced the cash book and bank reconciliation up until 30th October 2021. These were reviewed, agreed would be taken to Cllr Woods for signature outside of the meeting.
4. The internal audit had raised no items requiring review. The annual report had been amended as suggested and an additional column had been added to the cash book to extract mileage from staff costs. There had been no communication in regard to the external audit.
5. The Clerk confirmed that she had attended the annual street lighting consortium meeting and a revised price list was awaited from MEGA for acceptance from 1 April 2022. They would be included an additional item in the schedule for bonding column doors which had been accepted as best practise.
6. Cllr Sexton felt the Community Council should have a better understanding of its carbon footprint, this is certainly an area which is in the forefront of people’s minds at the current time. It was agreed by all that a report to understand the current position would be beneficial. The Clerk suggested including £2 - £3 k in next year’s budget to cover this work.
7. The Clerk had forwarded a letter from WCBC regarding potential costs for the Elections in May 2022 which would need to be considered within the production of the precept.
8. The Clerk had received a quotation from Ace Play to jet wash the wetpour at Chester Road which had last been done in August 2020. The cost was £670 plus VAT. Cllr Rowland had proposed that the work be carried out around February 2022 so this would look fresh for the Spring/Summer months. This was agreed.
9. The Clerk confirmed that the grounds maintenance contract would be due for renewal in April 2022 so would require a tender exercise. The current contractor has expressed an interest in submitting a price and the Clerk has a couple of other companies who have expressed an interest. This exercise will take place in the next couple of months once the schedule of works had been reviewed.
10. A number of donation bids had been received and were considered – these are summarised in the attached document. The spreadsheet will be distributed to all Councillors prior to the meeting on 17th November.

(viii) A discussion ensued regarding the precept application. The Living Wage Foundation had announced an increase from £9.50 to £9.90 per hour. This affects the wages for the Park Warden, Street Warden and Community Agent and this is usually implemented with effect from 1st April. This would increase the total wages bill by £728. The Clerk is currently on the top point of her salary scale so there would only be a minimal increase for cost of living. In view of this and the likely underspend for the current financial year it was considered that there would likely be no increase in the precept application however, that would be considered at the next Finance Meeting to be proposed to full Council at the December meeting.

1. The Clerk mentioned the pay for the Community Agent and felt consideration should be given to an honorarium payment. She is currently on the same hourly rate as the Park and Street Warden (in line with other Wrexham County Community Agent’s) however, the role undertaken by Ali Pickard at times exceeds the level of responsibility within her post profile. This was agreed by the attendees however, PM pointed out this would really be an issue for the Staffing committee to consider.

The next meeting of the Finance Committee will be scheduled to consider the precept application, prior to the Council meeting on 15th December 2021.