

**RUSTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES:** of the Meeting held on 7 January 2019

**PRESENT:** Councillors D Rogers (Chairman), J Bennett, Mrs C Broomfield, Mrs A Cooper, A Cooper, M Jones, Mrs S Partridge, J Street, G Tyler and P Warren

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**1/19            APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

**2/19            DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Rogers declared a personal interest in Minute 5/19. He remained in the Meeting during consideration of this item and took part in the discussion and vote thereon.

**3/19            MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 December 2018 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**4/19            GRANT AID**

**(a)    Arun and Chichester Citizens' Advice Bureau**

The Committee considered an application for Grant Aid for the year 2019/2020.

The Chairman reminded the Members that Grant Aid of £1,500.00 had been awarded to the Citizens' Advice Bureau for 2018/2019.

Following a detailed discussion, the Committee RECOMMENDED that a reduced sum of £1,000.00 should be awarded for the year commencing 1 April 2019, which was specifically towards the cost of providing the Westcourt Medical Centre outreach service which was available to Rustington's residents.

The Committee further RECOMMENDED that the Bureau should be advised that the decision to reduce the Grant Aid had been made taking account of the severe financial constraints being faced by the Council at the present time.

**(b)    Rustington Parochial Church Council**

The Committee considered a request for a financial contribution towards the upkeep of the Parish Churchyard for the year commencing 1 April 2019, from Mrs Jean Bulley, Honorary Secretary.

The Chairman reminded the Committee that a financial contribution of £1,000.00 had been made on an annual basis towards the upkeep of the Parish Churchyard for many years.

Following a detailed discussion, the Committee RECOMMENDED that a reduced sum of £750.00 should be awarded to the Parochial Church Council towards the upkeep of the Parish Churchyard for the year commencing 1 April 2019.

It was further RECOMMENDED that the Parochial Church Council should be advised that this Grant Aid should be treated as restrictive income and be ringfenced solely for the upkeep of the Parish Churchyard, and also that the decision to reduce the Grant Aid had been made taking account of the severe financial constraints being faced by the Council at the present time.

*(Prior to consideration of the following item Councillor Rogers had declared a personal interest, in his capacity as a Member of Rustington and District Twinning Association)*

**5/19            INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REQUIREMENTS - 2018/2019 AND 2019/2020**

The Chairman reminded the Committee of the required Precept described in the Draft Estimates prepared by the Clerk of the Council, which had been previously circulated to all Members.

Following a comprehensive discussion in respect of the Committees' Estimates, it was RECOMMENDED that the Council's Income and Expenditure requirements for 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 be as shown in the originally presented attached Schedules, subject to the following amendments:-

**2019/2020 Estimate**

Citizens' Advice Bureau - Grant	Delete: £1,500.00	Insert: £1,000.00
Grant Aid	Delete: £2,500.00	Insert £3,250.00
Grant - Upkeep of Parish Churchyard	Delete: £1,000.00	Insert: £ 750.00

The Chairman, on behalf of the Committee, expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Clerk and the Senior Administrative Officer for all of their hard work and efforts in producing the Draft Estimates.

**6/19            PRECEPT 2019/2020**

The Committee RECOMMENDED the issue of a Precept on the Arun District Council in the sum of £616,000.00 for 2019/2020.

The Committee NOTED that the proposed Parish Precept of £616,000.00 represented an estimated increase of 7.69% on the previous year's Precept for Rustington. This would result in an estimated annual Parish Council Tax of £101.42 for a Band 'D' property, which equated to an increase of £7.14p on the previous year (approximately 60p per month).

**Chairman: .....Date: .....**