**Finance and General Purposes Standing Committee:**

**Minutes 5 December 2018.**

 **Present:** Cllrs: C. Pickthall (Chair), P Jones, J. Pickthall, M. Wilson.

D. Webster, S. Webster, B Rajan. Apologies: J. Airey. J. Jenkinson.

1. **Minutes:** The minutes of the previous meeting were approved**.** The chair signed the Minutes as a true record.
2. **Financial Management**:

The bank reconciliation for November was approved and signed by the chair. Members noted the bank statement balances for the current and deposit accounts, together with the breakdown of deposit account funds.

**Action:** Full Council to note.

1. **External Auditors Report**: Members noted the final Auditors report together with the comment concerning the signing of section 2 which was not signed by the clerk before approval by council.

**Action**. Recommend acceptance to Full Council

1. **Budget 2019/20**:

The clerk presented a stand-still budget in a new format which clearly showed the expenditure extrapolated to clarify budgets for specific areas. It was requested that the Mayor and Deputy Mayors budgets be increased by the rate of inflation, which is currently 2.2%.

**Action:** Recommend the stand-still budget to full council incorporating an increase in expenditure of 2.2% for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor budgets for civic duties.

1. **Action Plan:**

Projects have been submitted for inclusion in the action plan, for expenditure from the £35,000 project (if necessary, as some will be grant funded within the action plan. This will be clearly subject to budget approval; the proposed projects are as follows:

*Additional projects requested to date:*

• **Bus Shelters:** Additional bus shelters at County Square and Priory

 Road (opposite Elmhurst). **Grant**

• **Signage:** Signage from Premier Inn to town centre. **£2000.00**

 Avoiding the A590.

• **Highways and pavements:** (Partner with CCC)

 Extension of bollard scheme in town centre.

 Gradual replacement of paving slabs with stone sets;

 similar to those in part of New Market St pavement. **£10,000**

• **Footpaths.** (partner with CCC)

Increase footpath budget to incorporate

 Potential improvements to the access to the canal at

 North Lonsdale Road (between the land occupied

 by the Depot).  **£4000.00/LIP**

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**Total £16,000**

Members also discussed the former Stead and Simpson building, and recommended that if there was any likelihood of bringing this back into use, then the original group of members who worked on the project (Cllr’s Jenkinson, Wilson and Smith) should be asked if they are willing to become involved in the project again.

The former knitwear factory site was available, following demolition of the factory. and Cllr Wilson and Cllr D Webster will continue to press SLDC on a use for this.

Cllr Wilson recommended that the council may wish to support a project to create better footpath access from the road in between the North Lonsdale Road depot site, to the canal. He said that this area needed tidying up, with a relatively small area of hard landscaping on the ground. He said that this might be able to be funded from the LIP Budget.

**Action:** To add footpath improvements to the draft action plan.

1. **AOB.** The clerk said that she had submitted a question to the CRASH group, following the recent town council meeting regarding members expressed safety concerns about the A590 through Ulverston, and a request for evidence gathering. This has been submitted to the next CRASH meeting for discussion by Sgt Johnson, JK would attend. This was agreed.
2. **Date of next Meeting: 9 January 2019 @ 6pm (Revised with agreement from the first Wednesday in January)**