

REPORT TO PICKMERE PARISH COUNCIL

11th August 2020

AGENDA ITEM 4.1 BUDGET IMPLICATIONS OF DECISIONS TO BE MADE

1 Background

- 1.1 This agenda contains reports on two sets of items which will impact on the Council's finances. In addition, Council is already aware of the reduction in its income during this financial year because of the closure of the Village Hall due to the current Covid19 pandemic. It is therefore appropriate to consider the potential impact of these matters on the Council's budget for the current financial year.

2. Report

- 2.1 The Council retains a comfortable running bank balance and therefore there are no concerns in terms of cash flow from the recommended actions proposed elsewhere on this agenda and as a result of the closure of the Village Hall. Taking the three elements in turn, the potential impact on the budget is as follows.
- 2.2 Neighbourhood Plan preparation On commencement of the preparation process there is likely to be expenditure on the planning consultant appointed to assist the Council, and on items such as stationery, preparation of maps, and possibly the carrying out of surveys, etc. However at an early stage application will be made to Government (guided by the consultant) for grant to assist with the process up to the end of this financial year. This should cover any expenditure incurred in the period to 31st March 2021. Accordingly there should be no impact on the overall Council budget during this period.
- 2.3 Replacement of the Council's website Should Council decide to proceed with replacement of its website, expenditure will clearly be incurred to the level described in the report at agenda item 6.2. It appears that this will be at a maximum in the order of £1000 for this financial year – probably less. Such expenditure could be accommodated within the Council's overall financial planning, perhaps by reducing the sum earmarked for the Review of Assets in the current year (currently £10,000).
- 2.4 Loss of Village Hall income As previously reported the average loss per month while the Hall is closed is about £200. Over a full year this would mean a loss of income of around £2500. At this stage it is not possible to foresee when the Hall might be reopened, but it may be hoped that this is possible before 31st March 2021. Again such a shortfall could be accommodated within the sum earmarked for Review of Assets.
- 2.5 Thus there will be some impact on the Council's budget for the current year but such impact can be absorbed.

3. Recommendation

3.1 That the report be noted.

J. Steel

Clerk to Parish Council