

FINANCE, GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2015–16

The Finance, Governance and Policy Committee (FG&P) comprises the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Parish Council together with the Chairman of the Planning Committee and two other parish councillors. Other councillors with a specific interest in items being considered by the FG&P Committee are encouraged to attend its meetings to make their views known.

The committee normally meets six times a year - all meetings being open to the public.

An additional meeting was held during the year to finalise budgets for the parish and to recommend a precept for the year 2016–2017. The recommendation was subsequently accepted by the Parish Council. It was to increase King's Sutton Parish Council's share of council tax due to be collected in 2016-2017 by 2.33%, the equivalent of an additional £1.61 a year for a Band D property.

As its title suggests, the committee's main responsibilities are to consider and make recommendations to the full parish council on financial, governance and policy matters.

During the past year this work has included: -

- the preparation of the draft budget and precept
- the regular examination of all council payments and receipts
- the review of the effectiveness of internal control arrangements which is informed by the quarterly internal control checks now carried out by Councillor Roger Burne, to whom the committee is most grateful
- the review of recommendations from councillors/working parties relating to the allocation of Section 106 monies
- the review of various contracts for services such as grass cutting and litter services
- the consideration of applications for financial assistance from village individuals/groups
- the examination and preparation of revised Standing Orders and Financial Regulations
- the consideration of financial and contractual arrangements for the carrying out projects such as the Play Project and other amenity activities

During the year the continued financial support for the weekly 'Thursday Bus' service was considered. The Committee noted that the net cost to the King's Sutton Parish Council was now amounting to around £3,500 per annum and that this sum was rising because of the dwindling number of users. The Committee recommended that the need for more people to use the service in the first six months of 2016 should be publicised, after which the Council should decide whether to retain or discontinue the service.

Moves were also commenced to examine the feasibility of financing the acquiring of land to extend the King's Sutton Cemetery and to pursue the exploring of means to provide an extension to the railway station car park.

In addition the Committee has proposed to the Parish Council that consideration should be given to seeking approval for the number of King's Sutton councillors to be reduced to a number more in line with the size of councils found in other equivalent parishes in South Northamptonshire.

In carrying out these various tasks the committee has relied on the expertise, advice and work of the Parish Clerk who is also the council's Responsible Finance Officer. The Committee and I wish to thank her for her excellent support in dealing with all of these issues.

Ronnie Irving

Chairman Finance Governance and Policy Committee 2015/16