



Minutes of a Meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee On Monday 19th December 2022 @ 4.30pm

Parish Office, Great Missenden

Present: Cllr M Johnstone (Chair)
Cllrs Rhodes, Hewett

Apologies: Cllrs Pither, Gladwin, V Martin

Also present: Jane Hennessy, clerk

F22/04 Declarations of Interest – Cllr Hewett – Great Missenden Xmas lights/Event grants.

F22/05 Minutes of meeting of 22nd November 2022 were signed following approval.

F22/06 Budget preparation 2023-24

Following the approval in principle by the full parish council meeting in December to try and keep to a maximum of a <5% increase in precept level for 2023/24 (against a band D), the finance committee reviewed the proposed budget.

The meeting reviewed the budget and made the following alterations. These were agreed to be presented to the parish council meeting in January for approval:-

Items agreed by the committee: -

- Additional line included for Missenden Walled Garden grant - £1,500
- Split the budget lines for Xmas event/Xmas lights into two as follows:-
 - o Prestwood Xmas event £1,500
 - o Prestwood Xmas lights £2,000
 - o Great Missenden Xmas event £1,500
 - o Great Missenden Xmas lights £2,000
- Increase the earmarked reserve for ground source heat pump investigation to £2,000

The budget total is £337,940 and it is proposed to provide a subsidy of £48,000 from general reserves giving a precept total of **£289,940**. On the current tax base information provided by Bucks Council this gives a band D percentage increase of £2.63pa ie 4.7%. All earmarked reserves were also reviewed and confirmed for recommendation to full council.

A summary of each budget category will be provided for the January full council meeting with a recommendation from the Finance Committee that the budget is approved. The deadline for submitting the precept request to Bucks Council is 31st January 2023.

A full list of the draft itemised budget is available for all councillors on request.

Overall: An increase in the precept of **£17,687** which is **6.5%**, though which is reflected as a **4.7%** increase for band D council tax ie for GMPC an increase of £2.63 pa or 5p per week

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) was discussed. It was confirmed that the following funds have been received to date:-

2020/21	£14,384
2021/22	£22,047

In 2021/22 the CIL money has been used to resurface the play area in Sibleys Rise at a cost of £4,548. This gives a total of £31,883.78 unspent. The earmarked CIL reserve was updated to reflect this.

Bank Interest Rates – Cllr Johnstone suggested that in the new year the Finance Committee members should make recommendations on bank accounts interest rates, with a view to moving more of the earmarked reserves into higher interest accounts. The legalities of any restrictions on parish council’s doing so, needs to be investigated by the clerk as does the level of protection limits offered by banks/building societies.

Parish Warden – also in the new year a proposal for the role of a parish warden will be developed for discussion with council.

F22/07 Any other business - none.

The chairman thanked the clerk and committee members for their deliberations in a difficult year of rising energy costs and high inflation.

Meeting closed at 5.45pm.