

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE WVCA HALL
ON WEDNESDAY 24th JANUARY 2024**

Present: Cllrs: N Kirk (Chair), S Bangham, S Bryant, M Dury, P O'Leary, V Perry & S Dyer (Clerk)

FIN/24/01 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

FIN/24/02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None, all in attendance.

**FIN/24/03 TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS UNDER
WHITCHURCH VILLAGE COUNCILS CODE OF CONDUCT
(ADOPTED ON 7th NOVEMBER 2012)**

Cllr M Dury declared an interest in agenda item 11, as his wife works for the Village Council.

**FIN/24/04 TO RECEIVE, CONSIDER AND GRANT ANY DISPENSATIONS
(FOR DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS)**

None.

**FIN/24/05 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE MEETING HELD ON
27th SEPTEMBER 2023**

It was resolved that the minutes, previously circulated, were a true record of the above meeting and they were signed accordingly by N Kirk (Chairman).

**FIN/24/06 TO CONSIDER A QUOTE FOR THE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY FOR THE
MILLENNIUM CLOCK AND AGREE THE WAY FORWARD WITH THIS**

Quotes have been obtained from SSE Business Energy - one year fixed contract at £821.47 - three year fixed rate contract at £833.21. Several other utility companies have been contacted but none of them deal with unmetered supplies, which is what we have.

It was resolved to go ahead with the 12 month contract as the cost of electricity is due to come down during the next 12 months.

FIN/24/07 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON CiL & TREE PLANTING FUNDS HELD

The balance of CiL funds held is £127,643.07 of which £67,170.75 needs to be spent as soon as possible.

Quotes are being sought to purchase and install two Speed Indicator Devices along Staunton Lane to help reduce the speed of traffic, items of gym equipment to be installed at the Playpark, upgrade of the footpaths, composting area etc. at the Allotment site. The projects in hand will be spent from the CiL budget.

There is a balance of £7,575.63 for the ongoing maintenance & management of the 15 trees planted last year. This will be used to water

the trees for the next two summers until they are fully established and on longer term maintenance.

FIN/24/08 TO REVIEW THE RESERVES POLICY AND AGREE ANY AMENDMENTS

The Reserves Policy was reviewed, it was resolved no increase is needed at present to either the Cemetery Reserves £90,000 or the General Reserves £40,000.

FIN/24/09 TO NOTE THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE PLAYFIELD/CEMETERY/ALLOTMENT COMMITTEE REGARDING BUDGET FIGURES AND INCREASING FEES FROM 1st APRIL 2024

The Playfield/Cemetery/Allotment Committee Chairman explained that it was agreed to recommend that Cemetery fees are increased by 4%, rounded up, Allotment fees will stay the same. The out of Parish fee's for Burial plots will be increased from 2.50 times to 3 times the fee for residents of Whitchurch Village.

Budget figures:-

Cemetery - £7,500.00

Playfield - £3,000.00

General Maintenance - £5,500.00

Allotments - £700.00

Total - £16,700.00

FIN/24/10 TO DISCUSS AND RECOMMEND CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FOR 2024/2025

No capital expenditure is planned for 2024/2025.

FIN/24/11 TO CHECK THE BUDGET TO DATE, SET THE BUDGET FOR 2024/2025 AND AGREE THE PRECEPT TO BE RECOMMENDED TO FULL COUNCIL

The budget figures for 2023/2024 were considered at length and a new budget set for the coming financial year.

It was resolved to recommend the Precept is increased by 4% from £42,000.00 to £43,680.00. This will result in an annual increase of £2.93 on a Band D property.

Meeting ended at 9.00.p.m.