

Amesbury Town Council
Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting
Friday 23rd February 2024
At 2.00pm in the Bowman Centre

Present: Cllr I Mitchell (Chair), Cllr A Lord (Deputy Chair), Cllr Dr M Devendran (Mayor), Cllr J Swindlehurst, Cllr R Crook

In Attendance: Mrs SJ Tucker (Town Clerk)

Visiting Public: 0

Public Questions

There were no public questions

01/2024. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr T Edwards (Deputy Mayor)

02/2024. To approve the minutes of the last meeting dated 15th December 2023

Proposed: Cllr A Lord

Seconded: The Mayor

Resolved

03/2024. To receive Declarations of Interest from Members

No Declarations of Interest were received.

04/2024. To consider the grant funding requests:

04.01/2024 Age UK - £200 to be recommended to Full Council

04.02/2024 Carer Support Wiltshire - £216 to be recommended to Full Council

Proposed: Cllr J Swindlehurst

Seconded: The Mayor

Resolved

05/2024 To review the budget against income and expenditure as at 31st January 2024 and identify potential virements

The committee reviewed the budget and recognised there were overspends in some codes but that these were justified, no virements were therefore recommended.

Cllr A Lord recommended that if any spending was going to be identified from EMR this should be highlighted whilst preparing the budget. Likewise any other forms of other income/expenditure should be included such as potential WC grants to show full income and expenditure levels, whilst this would not affect the Precept it showed funds/spending.

06/2024 To review EMR holdings and expenditure

This was reviewed in conjunction with the CIL fund expiry dates and actions to take at Item 07/2024.

07/2024 To review CIL fund expiry dates and actions to take

This was reviewed with all of the EMR funds available. The Clerk had provided a list of expenditure from this year's budget that could be funded by EMR 335 CIL Reserve 19/20. This needs to be spent by 31st March 2024 or WC may ask for the money to be returned. The Clerk also outlined the remaining 3 years of CIL funding in EMRs and options to spend that included match funding of the Wiltshire Town's Fund (£30k) and the Men's Shed which requires a significant contribution from the TC (at least £125k) given the tender prices. The Committee recommended that the proposals for all the CIL EMRs (335/336/337/338) be presented to Full Council for approval.

Proposed by The Mayor
Seconded by Cllr R Crook
Resolved

08/2024 To review R2/Section 106 statement and expiry dates/actions to take

Cllr A Lord recommended a list of spending requirements according to CIL and any R2 funds that have a deadline for use over the next few years be presented to Committees in order they can highlight what they may wish to spend it on. This would hopefully avoid last minute spending decisions as has been the case over the years.

09/2024. To review the General Reserve

There is likely to be in excess of £100k above what is recommended to be kept in general reserves (6months precept) at 31st March 2024. The committee recommends to Full Council that £100k be moved into EMR 320 for the Bowman Centre in order that a full upgrade for audio/soundproofing can be carried out. Any amount above £100k should be moved to EMR 358 Projects.

10/2024. Items for the next Agenda

End of year accounts
General Reserve Review/EMR
Funding opportunities as a result of the A303 Tunnel

11/2024. The next meeting will be held at 3pm on the 19th April 2024.

The meeting closed at 3pm.