

Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 15th December 2023

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

In Attendance: Mrs SJ Tucker (RFO)

		ACTION
1.	Apologies for Absence Cllr T Edwards	
2.	Declarations of Interest None	
3.	To approve the Minutes of the last meeting held on 27th November 2023 Proposed: Cllr R Crook Seconded: Cllr J Swindlehurst Resolved	
4.	Grant Applications - To consider the grant application from 1 st Amesbury Girls' Brigade for £200 Proposed: The Mayor Seconded: Cllr R Crook Resolved – this would be presented to Full Council on 16 th January 2024.	Clerk
5.	Budget Items - The following budget items were discussed with outcomes as follows that would be included in the revised budget being presented to Full Council on 16 th January 2024 for ratification:	
	5.1 An increase to the Christmas Light budget from £11000 to £16000. Proposed: Cllr J Swindlehurst Seconded: The Mayor Resolved – to increase the budget by £5000	Clerk
	5.2 An increase of £10k to the Ground Maintenance Contract budget taking it from £72,624 to £82,624 in light of the areas that are now under Town Council ownership. Proposed: Cllr J Swindlehurst Seconded: The Mayor Resolved – to increase the budget by £10000	Clerk Clerk
	5.3 Match funding of £30k to implement the Wiltshire Towns Fund. The Committee agreed in principle, but without seeing a plan as to what the funds would be spent it on it could not ratify it. Cllr A Lord proposed that the Projects Committee be approached to produce a plan and present to Full Council prior to any funds being agreed. This could be funded through EMR CIL 20/21 of which there is a total of £51k to spend prior to 31 st March 2025.	
	5.4 A budget for recommendations from a Disability Audit. The Committee agreed in principle, but without a plan or knowing what funds may be required it	

	<p>could not ratify it. Cllr A Lord proposed that Cllr Knight update the Full Council with more details for funds could be agreed. This could be funded through EMR CIL 20/21 of which there is a total of £51k to spend prior to 31st March 2025.</p> <p>5.5 A budget for improvements/replacement Town Signs, Lamp Posts and planters. The Committee agreed to this in principle, more details as to what is exactly required should be presented to the Full Council before agreeing on funds to be used. This could be funded through EMR CIL 20/21 of which there is a total of £51k to spend prior to 31st March 2025.</p> <p>6. To determine the revised draft budget and precept calculations for 2024. The committee reviewed the revised budget (Christmas Lights and Ground Maintenance increases, along with a £3000 increase to Staff Recruitment and a £3440 increase to Central Car Park Toilet Cleaning), taking the overall figure for the precept to £710,596.</p> <p>Whilst determining the budget, the committee acknowledged that Amesbury requires investment and residents want to see improvements and this budget and precept would assist in that. The Mayor suggested there may be funds through LHFIG for improvements on the footpaths in the Town Centre, where kerb stones are damaged. Cllr R Crook also suggested that the one-way system at Flower Lane be reviewed. This would be an item for the Full Council to discuss.</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr A Lord Seconded: Cllr J Swindlehurst Resolved: To recommend to Full Council that it ratifies the budget and sets the 2024/25 Precept at £710,596, the equivalent of £154.04 for a Band D property. This equates to 42p per day. This is an increase of £14.34 for a Band D property or 9.31% on last year's Precept.</p> <p>7. Date of next meeting and Agenda Items:</p> <p>The next meeting will be held at 3pm on Friday 23rd February in the Bowman Centre.</p> <p>Cllr A Lord suggested a list of planned dates for the year ahead for committee meetings.</p> <p>The committee needed to review the statements and funds available for R2/S106 and EMR and come up with a strategy for their use to put to Full Council.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>All</p>
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