



FINANCE COMMITTEE Met at Marshalswick Community Centre on Monday 26th September 2022 at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillors John Hale, Janet Churchard, Jenny Roberts

OFFICERS: Simon Thwaites, Parish Clerk, Emma Hostler, Deputy Parish Clerk

ABSENT: -

680 APOLOGIES

Councillors Graham Leonard, John Newton Davies, Sam Vosper.

681 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There was none.

682 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 30th MAY 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on the 30th May 2022, having been previously circulated, were reviewed. It was unanimously:

Resolved

That the minutes be approved and then signed by the Chair.

683 2022/2023 BUDGETARY CONTROL

Members considered a budgetary control report showing projected net expenditure for 2022/23 of £354,322 against the budget of £305,706. A projected overspend of £48,616 was noted. Also noted was that the report was a very early projection, subject to a number of uncertainties.

The following were accepted as contributory to the projected overspend;

Projected net overspend £48,616

Approved additional expenditure (£25,000) Bike Track
Approved additional expenditure (£12,000) William Bell footpath
Approved additional expenditure (£4,660) Summer event
Reduced Centres income (£20,000)

684 REVIEW OF BANK STANDING ORDERS AND DIRECT DEBITS

Financial Regulations require this committee to note these annually. Members reviewed a schedule of direct debits paid through the Treasurer's Account. There are no standing orders currently.

685 EXTERNAL AUDIT 2021/2022

The Clerk informed members that the Parish Council's External Auditor, PKF Littlejohn, has returned an unqualified audit of the 2021/22 AGAR and that there were no issues raised. A Notice of Conclusion of Audit was published on the Parish Council's noticeboards and website on September 12th for a period of 14 days. It was unanimously;

Resolved

To formally note the audit report as attached.

686 REVIEW OF BANK SIGNATORIES

A list of current bank signatories across all the Parish accounts was reviewed. It was noted that a number of current bank signatories have lapsed and the recommendation was for these to be removed from the account and new signatories added. It was further recommended that both Cllr Leonard and Cllr Roberts are added as signatories to the Santander, Nationwide and Unity Trust accounts.

The full list of active signatories to be as follows:

Simon Thwaites (Administrator)
Emma Hostler (Administrator)
John Hale
John Newton-Davies
Janet Churchard
Graham Leonard
Jenny Roberts

It was unanimously;

Resolved

To update the list of signatories to include new signatories Cllr Graham Leonard and Cllr Jenny Roberts, added across all accounts.

687 TIMBER SLIDES AT SPENCER MEADOW AND WILLIAM BELL OPEN SPACES

Members noted that a child using the timber clad slide at William Bell playground had needed to attend an A and E department after suffering a large splinter.

The Clerk informed the meeting that, as a result, both timber slides had been taken out of operation. The following were proposed as options going forward;

1. Include replacement of the timber in the 2023/24 draft budget. This will require both slides to be out of service for a minimum six months.
2. Request funding from the Finance Committee to replace the timber now. It was noted that a quote has been sought with an estimated cost to replace all the timber on both slides of £4,500 maximum.

Following discussion it was unanimously;

Resolved

To make available reserve funds of up to £4,500, this decision to be approved by the Sports and Recreation Committee on October 5th and then ratified at Full Council in October.

688 MATTERS OF NOTE

- Quarterly bank reconciliations have been signed off as required. It is a requirement of the Financial Regulations that this is noted by the committee.
- IAC Audit and Consultancy Limited will carry out its first internal audit of the Parish Council on November 30th.
- The financial grant application to CEMEX in respect of the pump track has not yet been concluded. The Clerk has chased this matter several times, most recently on September 12th 2022.
- A salary award for 2022/23 has not yet been agreed between the unions and the National Joint Council for Local Government Services.

689 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA

There was none.

The meeting closed at 8 pm.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday October 31st 2022 at 7.30pm

Chair **Date**