



**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Met at Marshalswick Community Centre on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 7.30pm

**PRESENT:**

Councillors John Hale (Chair), Luke Sieger, James Lambert, Graham Leonard

**OFFICERS:**

Simon Thwaites, Parish Clerk

**ABSENT:**

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**IN ATTENDANCE:**

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**746 Apologies**

Councillors Jenny Roberts and Julie Oakley

**747 Disclosures of Interest and Dispensations**

There was none.

**748 Minutes of the Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023, having been previously circulated, were reviewed. It was unanimously:

**Resolved**

That the minutes be approved and signed by the Chair.

**749 S.137 Expenditure Limit**

It was noted that S.137 expenditure is money spent by a council where there is no specific spending power to do so and where a council does not have the Power of Competence. This expenditure is capped in order to avoid excessive inappropriate use of public money. The cap for 2024/25 is £10.81 multiplied by the number of electors in the parish (a figure over 9,000). It's very unlikely Sandridge Parish Council will come anywhere close to that level of S.137 expenditure but the Clerk will continually monitor.

**750 2023/24 Budgetary Control**

It was reported that projected net expenditure in 2023/24 is £303,356 against a budget of £343,095. This projection would result in an underspend on budget of £39,739. Exceptional or material variations noted by Members are as follows;

- Increased income from Marshalswick Community Centre £13,000
- Increased bank interest £7,000
- Cancelled Parish Event £10,000
- Reduced expenditure on the Grounds Maintenance Contract £3,000 (unused provision for new items)

**751 Matters of Note**

- At Full Council on February 14th it will be recommended by the Committee for Sustainability that an annual sum of £2,500 is set aside (earmarked) toward the eventual replacement of the parish van or another capital cost relating to sustainability.
- The 2023/24 salary award as agreed by the Local Government Association has been implemented. The award was for an additional £1,925 per annum on each increment of the pay scale (pro rata to hours worked).
- The Hiring of the two community centres continues to be buoyant. The Centres Manager will report to Full Council with further details at the May meeting.
- The 2024/25 precept will be received from the District Council in two equal instalments in April and September 2024.
- The Parish Council's new payroll provider continues to offer a prompt, accurate and professional service.
- At Full Council on 14<sup>th</sup> February, councillors will be asked to again consider the transfer of the Jersey Farm Open Space from the District Council to the Parish Council. Members will be made aware of the annual maintenance costs, currently in the region of £9,750.

**752 Items for Inclusion on the Next Agenda**

- There was none.

**Date of Next Meeting** – Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024 at 7.30pm, Marshalswick Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 8pm.

**Chair** ..... **Date** .....