



THE FINANCE COMMITTEE Met at Marshalswick Community Centre on Monday 28th October 2024 at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillors John Hale (Chair), James Lambert, Graham Leonard, Jenny Roberts, Luke Sieger, Julie Oakley

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

ABSENT: -

IN ATTENDANCE: -

784 Apologies
There was none.

785 Disclosures of Interest and Dispensations
There was none.

786 Minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd September 2024
The minutes of the meeting held on the 23rd September 2024, having been previously circulated, were reviewed. It was unanimously:

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

787 2024/25 Budgetary Control and 2025/26 Draft Budget
Members reviewed the budgetary control report circulated with the agenda, noting the projected outturn which raised no concerns. The Committee then reviewed the draft 2025/26 budget, noting variations between this and next year's budget requirements. The draft was considered in the context of the use of reserves and the proposed increase in precept. Questions were asked and responded to.
Noted in summary, draft net expenditure for 2025/2026 is £377,832, an increase of 4.9% on the current year's budget. It was unanimously;

Resolved
To approve the draft 2025/26 budget as circulated, subject to funding (see minute 789) and subject to final approval by Full Council on December 11th December 2024.

788 5 Year Model
Members reviewed and discussed the five year model circulated with the agenda in the context of the draft budget and draft reserves. There were not thought to be any apparent trends to cause concern. The merit of holding slightly higher balances during unstable times was noted.

789 2025/26 Draft Reserves, Precept and Funding Requirement
Various tables circulated with the agenda were reviewed and discussed. Members stepped back to consider the draft 2025/26 budget in the context of reserves, the financial environment and the

recommended increase in precept. It was proposed by Councillor Leonard, seconded by Councillor Sieger and unanimously;

Resolved

To recommend to Full Council on December 11th 2024 an increase on the 2024/25 precept of 8% for 2025/26.

790 New NALC Financial Regulations

Members reviewed a report by the Deputy Clerk highlighting relevant updates in the new NALC Model Financial Regulations. Following discussion it was agreed that Members would individually review the highlighted updates within the draft but may also schedule a meeting with the Deputy Clerk to look at them together, possibly with other councillors. The matter then to come back to this committee on 10th February 2025 (scheduled meeting). An updated version of the Regulations to be agreed for recommendation to Full Council in March 2025.

791 Works to the Alleyway between The Ridgeway and William Bell Open Space

On October 11th the Clerk wrote to Finance Committee Members in respect of a householder living alongside this alleyway complaining that resurfacing works carried out three years ago are causing damp issues on his internal walls. It was explained that there is a risk of timber flooring within the building also being affected if remedial works are not soon undertaken.

Members agreed by email to approve expenditure up to the value of £1,640, this to be ratified by the committee at its next meeting. It was unanimously;

Resolved

To ratify the decision to approve expenditure of up to £1,640 in this regard.

792 Matters of Note

- The 2024/25 salary award has not yet been agreed between unions and the National Joint Council for Local Government Services.

Note: The Clerk confirmed that a settlement has now been reached and this will be paid to staff in November (backdated).

793 Matters Arising

- A settlement has been reached to fund the removal of spikes to a fence bordering St Leonard's churchyard. This cost falls within that approved by this committee.

794 Items for Inclusion on the Next Agenda

- Councillor Leonard stated there would be a request for funding relating to Parish Council owned car parks.

Date of Next Meeting – Monday 10th February 2025 at 7.30pm, Marshalswick Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 8.38 pm.

Chair **Date**