



Whiteparish Parish Council

MINUTES of the Whiteparish Parish Council Finance Committee meeting held on Wednesday 27th November 2024 at 10.30am in Whiteparish Memorial Centre.

Present: T. King (Chairman) and Cllrs J. Bishop and L. Palmer (late)

In attendance: Maria Pennington (Clerk). There were no members of the public present.

To elect a Chair of the Committee

1F/24 Cllr King was elected as Chairman of the Finance Committee.

To receive apologies for absence and to approve the reasons given.

2F/24 No apologies received.

To receive any Declarations of Interest from Members.

3F/24 There were no declarations.

Exclusion of the press and public. To agree any items to be dealt with after the public, including the press, have been excluded under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 and Local Government Act 1972 ss100.

4F/24 This item was not required as there were no members of the public present.

10.34am Cllr Palmer arrived.

To recommend Budget for year 2025/2026.

5F/24 The budget for potential contribution to the Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group (LHFIG), SID/road safety project, will utilise the budget for 2024/2025. Only a small portion of that expenditure is LHFIG related. The Finance Committee recommend that no further budget allocation is given to LHFIG projects and any call for a contribution for a LHFIG project would come from the Parish Council general reserves. Whiteparish Parish Council Finance Committee agreed to recommend approval of the budget of £45,055.80.

To consider the Reserves Policy.

Whiteparish Parish Council Finance Committee reviewed the Reserves Policy.

6F/24 The Finance Committee is mindful of the Joint Panel on Accountability and Governance (JPAG) which is responsible for issuing proper practices about the governance and accounts of smaller authorities, and which encourages smaller authorities to hold general reserves of 100%. The Finance Committee recommends the Reserves Policy retains general reserves at a “minimum of 60%”.

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Date.....

7F/24 A condition assessment of the chain link fencing on the eastern boundary of the recreation ground suggests it will need replacement in the medium term. It will not be appropriate to get detailed quotes at this stage. To estimate an appropriate level of reserves the cost of replacing the closed board and chain link fences on the northern boundary was circa £20k in 2020. The Finance Committee recommends the earmarked reserves for fencing to be amended to £20k on the Reserves Policy.

8F/24 There is no longer an expectation that any neighbouring land for recreational use will become available in the foreseeable future. The Finance Committee recommends the removal of earmarked reserves for recreational land on the Reserves Policy.

9F/24 The Finance Committee recommends the fund to maintain existing village recreation facilities, including the MUGA to remain the same at £20k on the Reserves Policy. Whiteparish Memorial Trust has advised the Parish Council that £20k is at the bottom end for any refurbishment of the MUGA.

10F/24 The Finance Committee recommends the Parish Council promotes the availability of grants, in line with the criteria, for community initiatives.

To recommend Parish Precept for year 2025/2026.

11F/24 Further to the recommendation for the budget; that no further budget allocation is given to LHFIG projects (£5k had been allocated in 24/25) and any call for a contribution for a LHFIG project would come from the Parish Council general reserves, Whiteparish Parish Council Finance Committee agreed to recommend there is a £5k reduction in the precept with the precept request set at £37,448.50. The Band D rate will be determined when the final tax base figures are provided by Wiltshire Council on 10th December 2024.

To consider the Financial Regulations.

12F/24 Whiteparish Parish Council Finance Committee reviewed the Financial Regulations and, subject to a further review following National Association of Local Councils (NALC's) recommendations, agreed to recommend with no amendments.

To consider the Risk Assessment.

13F/24 Whiteparish Parish Council Finance Committee reviewed the Risk Assessment and agreed to recommend with no amendments.

To consider the Finance Committee Terms of Reference.

14F/24 Whiteparish Parish Council Finance Committee reviewed the Finance Committee Terms of Reference and agreed to recommend with no amendments.

To consider the Statement of Internal Control.

15F/24 Whiteparish Parish Council Finance Committee reviewed the Statement of Internal Control and agreed to recommend with no amendments.

To consider any other financial matters.

16F/24 There were no other financial matters raised.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 12.09pm.

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