

Sedbergh Parish Council, Finance Committee

Minutes of Sedbergh Parish Council Finance Committee meeting, held Parish Council office, 72 Main Street, Sedbergh on Monday 5th December 2022 at 5.30pm

Present:

Cllrs Lancaster, Capstick, Brooks and the Clerk, Miss Hassam (*it was noted that at the Finance meeting held on 7th November 2022, Cllr Arnold was not present and Cllr Brooks was present).

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Arnold and accepted by the meeting.

2. Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting held Monday 7th November 2022

The minutes were agreed and signed, as a true record, by the Chairman Cllr Lancaster*

4. Financial Summary and Bank Reconciliation

The Financial Summary for November 2022 had been circulated to Members and it was resolved that all payments (attached) were recommended for payment, including the playing field pathway construction fee (once all contractual elements confirmed, including Principal Designer obligations) and any additional feedback from Members due to visit the site prior to 8th December 2022. In addition, £625.00 was recommended in respect of the recent hedge/verge works and £88.35 for November (Parish Lighting). The Clerk noted that a Direct Debit had been completed and returned for Npower (Parish Lighting), however, they had not yet confirmed the change in payment method. The Clerk also advised that the current fixed rate for energy supply at Loftus Hill/Main Street toilets was coming to an end, with increased fees effective from 1 February 2023. The Bank Reconciliation, for November 2022, was checked and found to be correct and signed by Cllrs Capstick and Brooks.

5. Receipts and Payments 2022 - 2023

The up-to-date financial report for 2022/2023 was circulated for information. It was noted that £100 had been received from the Royal British Legion in respect of the proposed plaque for Antoni Gosiewski, with a further £200 pledged from the Sedbergh & District History Society.

- i) **General ongoing review of Budget 2022 – 2023 and Draft Budget for 2023 – 2024 (attached).** The previously circulated Draft included an uplift of approximately 10% based on previous years due to the current economic climate/rising costs, however, the Tax Base was still unknown, with an update from South Lakeland District Council (SLDC) anticipated late December/early January 2023.

6. Grant Applications

There were no grant applications.

7. Playing field – update on potential pathway project, Howgill Lane

Work on the path was now complete, see Item 4 (above). When final invoices received (for Principal Designer role too), the Clerk will liaise with Cumbria County Council for reimbursement of costs.

8. Online Banking

- i) Bankline for Communities (NatWest) – Cllr Lancaster hopes to complete the Bank's administration duties when convenient, to progress the setup of electronic payments in the future.

9. Ongoing review of Contracts - update

Members noted that the Amenities Committee will be considering the grass cutting/field maintenance contract as part of their ongoing general review of contracts, particularly regarding budgetary impacts for 2023/2024, with the Clerk inviting informal quotes to assist with review.

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10. Electric Vehicle Charging – proposed installation, update on grants

Following the updates from The Energy Saving Trust (EST) in October and November, the Clerk had received a further comparative quote. It was recommended to refer details to Full Council on 8th December 2022 (Part II), to consider progression and to continue to pursue On-Street Residential Charge Point Scheme, Office of Zero Emission Vehicles (ORCS OZEV) at both Joss Lane and Loftus Hill car park. The Clerk was additionally asked to pursue informal enquiries with other potential funders.

11. Date of next meeting – Monday 9th January 2023 at 5.30pm Members resolved to meet in the Parish Council Office, 72 Main Street, Sedbergh.