

Sedbergh Parish Council, Finance Committee

Minutes of Sedbergh Parish Council Finance Committee meeting, held Parish Council office, 72 Main Street, Sedbergh on Monday 6th November 2023 at 5.30pm

Present: Cllrs Arnold (Chair), Lancaster, Capstick, Brooks and the Clerk, Miss Hassam

1. Apologies

There were no apologies, all Committee Members were present at the meeting.

2. Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest for the meeting.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting held Monday 9th October 2023

The minutes were agreed and signed, as a true record, by the Chairman Cllr Arnold.

4. Financial Summary and Bank Reconciliation 2023/2024

The Financial Summary for October 2023 had been circulated to Members and it was resolved that all payments (attached) were recommended for online payment (including one cheque payment for The Royal British Legion poppy wreath). In addition, payments for the recent tree works at Queen's Garden and New Bridge £1980 (Members noted a query in respect of the boundary line at New Bridge – deferred to Full Council), street works costs for the new EV connection at Joss Lane car park £1868.24, legacy payment to The Farmer Network £1519.09 and adjustment to Clerk salary/pension to reflect the recently nationally agreed pay settlement (backdated to 1.4.23) were recommended. The Bank Reconciliation, for October 2023, was checked and found to be correct and signed by Cllrs Brooks and Capstick and the balance now held on the Public Sector Deposit Fund was noted.

5. Receipts and Payments 2023 – 2024

The up-to-date financial report for 2023/2024 was circulated for information to all Members. The Clerk noted that the 2nd instalment of the Precept had now been received, following an initial delay, from Westmorland and Furness Council.

- i) **Budget requirements 2024/2025 – project requests/draft budget and Precept consideration 2024/2025.** Members discussed the initial draft budget (and notes) circulated, which had used a provisional uplift of 5% for the Precept. Members have requested the Clerk to prepare a further Budget with a Precept increase of 8% to reflect inflation more closely and match anticipated expenditure. The Clerk was also requested to liaise with W&F Councillor Hodgson to clarify if parish grants would be paid in 2024/2025. Members also noted that final information pertaining to the tax base for the Parish would not be known until December/January.

6. Grant Applications

- i) **Sedbergh Music Festival 2024 - £250.00.** Members resolved to recommend the sum requested of £250.00.

7. Projects – scope funding in respect of improvement proposals at Joss Lane car park and playground – any update?

Cllr Arnold has had a preliminary indicative meeting with a designer and hopes to progress some comparable information in due course. There was no further information available in respect of aspirations to enhance/improve Joss Lane car park/public realm. However, Full Council Item 14, would also discuss any updated relevant information. Cllr Arnold hoped that it might be possible, for example, to apply to Westmorland and Furness Council to support these projects in the future.

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