

Sedbergh Parish Council, Finance Committee

Minutes of Sedbergh Parish Council Finance Committee meeting, held Parish Council office, 72 Main Street, Sedbergh on Monday 11th December 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 6th November 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 November 2023 had been circulated to Members and it was resolved that all payments (attached) were recommended for online payment. In addition, payments for stationery £145.25 and the monthly car park transaction invoice (also now received for November) £176.45 were additionally recommended. The Bank Reconciliation, for November 2023, was checked and found to be correct and signed by Cllrs Brooks and Capstick, along with bank statements/summary of receipts and payments

5. Receipts and Payments 2023 – 2024

The up-to-date financial report for 2023/2024 was circulated for information to all Members.

- i) **Budget requirements 2024/2025 – draft budget and any update on Precept/Parish Grant 2024/2025.** Following completion of the draft budget previously, Members had amended (as required) with the requirement for an increase of 8% on the Precept. Members had now, however, received correspondence from Westmorland and Furness Council advising that 2024/2024 would be the final year that the Parish Grant, normally paid in addition to the Precept. This figure was confirmed as £1706.52 for 2024/2025. Members discussed the potential future implication on the Precept, from 2025/2026, and were minded to consider any further adjustments that might still be required to the Budget (and forecasting for the future) in anticipation of the notified changes. Members recommended, therefore, that when the Precept form (along with confirmation of the tax base) is received from Westmorland and Furness Council, Members may need to consider further adjustment in anticipation of the reduced sum now expected in 2025/2026 (ie, loss of future Parish Grant). It is anticipated that the formal Precept letter will be received from Westmorland and Furness Council later this month, with a formal resolution being required at the meeting in January. It was also noted, for reference to the Budget, that the landlord of the Parish Council office had sent notice of a 20% rent increase from 2024/2025.

6. Grant Applications

There were no Grant applications received in November.

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

Following the Full Council meeting, in November, Members requested the Clerk to follow up any potential funding from the developers of the Station Road site in respect of Section 106 improvements. No further updates were available in respect of funding from Westmorland and Furness Council.

8. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 9th January 2024 at 6.00pm. Members resolved to meet in the Parish Council Office, 72 Main Street, Sedbergh (Note, meeting one day later than previously scheduled).