

Sedbergh Parish Council, Finance Committee

Minutes of Sedbergh Parish Council Finance Committee meeting, held Parish Council office, 72 Main Street, Sedbergh on Monday 9 December 2024 at 6.15pm

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

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Arnold and it was resolved, therefore, that Cllr Lancaster would act as Chairman for the duration of the meeting.

2. Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting held Monday 11 November 2024

The minutes were agreed by those present and were signed as a true record, by the acting Chairman, Cllr Lancaster.

4. Financial Summary and Bank Reconciliation 2024 - 2025

The Financial Summary for November 2024 had been circulated, along with the Bank reconciliation. The Bank Reconciliation for November 2024 was checked and found to be correct and were signed by Cllrs Brooks and Capstick, including bank statements/summary of receipts/payments and list of online payments for approval. The PSDF statement for November had been received, and information updated, confirming receipt of the additional £50,000 transfer from the current account.

5. Receipts and Payments 2024 – 2025

The up-to-date Receipts and Payments report for 2024/2025 had been circulated, for information, to all Members. In addition, the Clerk noted that whilst they had received notification of funds to be received from the EV charges at both car parks for the second quarter, funds had yet to be received. The Clerk has, therefore, recently followed this up with the provider.

i) **Requests for payments 2024-2025 (attached)** Members resolved to approve all payments requested and, in addition, a further recent invoice for hedge cutting at the playing field/Ghyllas lay-by £120.00.

ii) **Draft Budget/Precept (final Precept to be confirmed to Westmorland and Furness Council January 2025)** Members discussed the initial draft Budget for 2025/2026. And in addition, consideration was given to potential increased expenditure in respect of grants and professional fees (for project/s planned). It was also noted that any bank interest/revenue will reduce when projects are delivered, and that the current interest/revenue being received only allows value of current reserves to be retained vs general inflation. Members resolved, therefore, to recommend a Precept of £57162.49 which gives an increase of £7554.61. This is equal to circa. 7% increase per equivalent Band D property, due to an increase in the tax base for Sedbergh. The new Band D rate would be approx. £46.97 per annum, an increase of approx. £0.06 per week. Band D prices are generally used to measure/compare increases both locally and nationally. Members were minded to keep the increase at this level, whilst acknowledging that inflation continues to rise. Members also noted that whilst the council has a healthy reserve – most funds are allocated for specific future projects. Including, for example, the playground and Joss Lane car park. Members are hopeful that some projects may begin to progress in 2025, and following ongoing consultation with Planning, at Yorkshire Dales National Park.

6. Grant applications/donation requests

i) **Sedbergh Information Centre (CIC) £1,000 – Sheepfest 2025.** Following discussion, Members resolved to recommend the sum of £1,000 to support Sheepfest in 2025.

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7. Review of Parking Permits – any update on potential processes

The Clerk was able to update Members further in respect of 'digital' permits, including the potential financial savings vs impact on Sedbergh Information Centre/administration of business/accommodation interchangeable permits. Following discussion, Members resolved to recommend maintaining physical parking permits in 2025/2026, with a view to reconsider in 12 months' time. Members were minded to ask Full Council to consider the potential savings previously discussed, against the inconvenience to some residents/footfall to the Information Centre etc. They were also concerned that those not able to complete an online application, would simply stop purchasing.

8. An update on general future IT structure/gov.uk and gov.uk emails

The Clerk updated Members in respect of information received from various registered providers for gov.uk domains etc. However, at this time, and due to other priorities – Members recommended to defer this item to a future meeting. Noting also that it is not yet mandatory for Parish/Town Councils to have gov.uk domains/emails.

9. Date of next meeting – Monday 6 January 2025 at 6.15pm. Members resolved to meet in the Parish Council Office, 72 Main Street, Sedbergh.