

Sedbergh Parish Council, Finance Committee

Minutes of Sedbergh Parish Council Finance Committee meeting, held Parish Council office, 72 Main Street, Sedbergh on Monday 6 January 2025 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 9 December 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 December 2024 had been circulated, along with the Bank reconciliation. The Bank Reconciliations for December 2024 were 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 December had been received,

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 the outstanding EV charging income had now been received, and quarter three was now awaited. The Clerk also noted that the invoice for EV usage at Joss Lane had been charged at standard VAT for the month of December and, following investigations by the Clerk, this is understood to be due to the amount consumed over the month (>1000 kwh).

- i) **Requests for payments 2024-2025 (attached)** Members resolved to approve all payments requested and, in addition, the Clerk had prepared the VAT for Quarter 3, with total due - £5207.72
- ii) **Draft Budget/Precept (final Precept to be confirmed to Westmorland and Furness Council in January 2025)** Members discussed the draft Budget 2025/2026, that had been circulated and discussed in December. Members resolved to recommend the Precept previously reported - £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 (from 1130.02 to 1217.00 including 2nd home premium). 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 remain 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

No Grant applications had been received, however, there had been a request from Cumbria Community Foundation for Sedbergh Parish Council to consider a donation to their Cumbria Winter Warmth Appeal under the provision of Section 137. Members referred the request to Full Council.

7. Date of next meeting – Monday 10 February 2025 at 6.15pm. Members resolved to meet in the Parish Council Office, 72 Main Street, Sedbergh.