

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 23rd JANUARY 2024 AT 7.00PM

Present

Chair Cllr. Claire Price
Cllr. Karen Walsh

Cllr. Prof Alan Sinclair
Cllr. Roger Worthington

Cllr. Jamie Barnard
Cllr. Val Pridmore

Ms. Ruth Senior (Clerk)

FC/01/24 Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

Apologies received from Cllr. Rachel Horton-Kitchlew, Cllr. Spencer Norton and Cllr. Zoe Hatch.

There were no declarations of interest.

FC/02/24 To approve minutes of the meeting held on 24th January 2023

These were approved and signed by the Chairman.

FC/03/24 Matters arising from the previous minutes

There were none.

FC/04/24 To review revenue and expenditure for 2023/24 and budget for 2024/25

A statement of the Council's finances and the projected figures to year end was circulated prior to the meeting:

Review of 2023-24

Income –

Overall income to the end of March is predicted to be c£4000 (7%) higher than budgeted.

Regular hirers - Although we have lost the Pilates class on a Monday evening, we have 3 new regular hirers; Martial Arts on Mondays, Yoga on Wednesdays and drums once a month.

Sadly Maidenhead Operatic and MMCS who use the hall Tues, Weds and Thurs are not back with us this quarter but will return next quarter for 24/25.

Also the annual 3% rise for Playgroup fees has been implemented from Jan hire.

Main Expenditure –

CCTV £2110

Mural repair £3930

Bathroom refurb £13,531

MVAS £2500 extra on Cliveden sign

Clerk salary, HMRC & pension increase due to increased hours c£350 per month

The insurance renewal almost £1000 lower than budgeted at £1335 after shopping around.

Cash Reserves - Expect to end the year with bank balance of c£106,000 which is higher than predicted.

To consider for 2024-25

The tree survey which was agreed for every 3 years will be due this year at an approximate cost of up to £3.5k.

The heating system needs replacing, estimated at £20k and re painting the Reading Room estimated up to £5k to come out of the Land Securities Fund (which currently has £35,991) as the Village Hall is a community asset, saving what is left in the Buildings Fund (£25,000) for items on the structure for example windows, doors or roof.

Village Green noticeboard repair to replacement up to £1k.

Sand and varnish/oil all external windows and doors up to £5k.
Clerk annual salary increase.

FC/05/24 To agree a precept to recommend to the Council for year to 31st March 2025

Precept -

The tax base has gone up to 1476.63 for 24/25, an increase of 50.40 on last year. Each band D tax payer paid £26.83 last year. The proposal is a precept increase of 20% to support the hefty maintenance costs of the village hall as there has only been 1 increase of 3% in the last 5 years. Even with that increase we will be at the lowest level of reserves since Cllr. Price started and with a deficit of over £21k next year.

This will mean a precept request of £47,613.25, each Band D tax payer paying £32.24 (£5.41 per year more) **which was unanimously agreed.**

FC/06/24 Any other business

There was none.

FC/07/24 Items for the next agenda

There were none.

FC/08/24 Date and time of next meeting and items for the next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 21st January 2025 at 7.00pm

The meeting closed at 7.25pm.