

WEDMORE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a Meeting of the **FINANCE and GENERAL PURPOSES Committee** held at the Council Rooms, Grants Lane, Wedmore on **Wednesday 1st December 2021 at 7.15 pm**

Present: Mrs P Costello (Council Chairman), Mrs I Beacom, Mrs G Cousins, Mr D Kirley,
Mrs E Mulliner, Mrs S Worrall

In Attendance: Mr R Pring (Clerk)

1. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN** – Proposed by Cllr Worrall and seconded by Cllr Cousins that Cllr Costello be elected Chairman. This was agreed.
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Cllrs J Farley, A Smith
3. **REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION** – The 6 members present had requested the Clerk (as per Standing Orders) to grant a dispensation for them to discuss and set the Budget and Precept for 2022/2023. A request form was completed by members present, approval was given and the form was signed by the Clerk
4. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** – The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd December 2020 were approved and signed by the Chairman
5. **MATTERS ARISING** – None
6. **BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2022/2023** – Cllr Mulliner noted that the precept had remained unchanged for the past five years and with all the extra housing in the village, perhaps it should be raised due to extra responsibilities and costs. Cllr Kirley said he would propose the precept be raised to £75k providing there was no impact on the council tax payers. This was seconded by Cllr Worrall and agreed. The Clerk would contact the Chief Accountant at Sedgemoor to find out what the likely impact, if any would be. The Clerk had previously circulated a proposed budget for the coming year and had taken into account the proposed allotment rent increase and costs for a new website. CIL funds were at £98k and it was already agreed to grant £100k towards a new health centre. Cllr Costello said there was a possibility of land becoming available at Blackford to create a safe footpath for students at the school. This would require some funding from the Council and would be an ideal opportunity for CIL funding. Cllr Worrall reminded the meeting that funds were being held at Sedgemoor to provide additional work to affordable housing. The proposed budget as circulated was agreed.

RESOLVED: To place before Full Council for approval the following budget and precept proposals for the year 2022/2023.

	2022/2023
INCOME	Budget
Precept	£75,000.00
Grants & Loans	£25,000.00
VAT reclaimed	£6,000.00
Allotments	£2,000.00
Burial Ground	£3,500.00
Other income	£10,000

PARISH COUNCIL TOTAL	£121,500
EXPENDITURE	
Grants	£10,000.00
Allotments	£2000.00
Burial Ground	£4,800.00
Highways, footpath etc.	£10,000.00
Car Park	£6,000.00
Play Areas	£6,200.00
Public Convenience	£4,500.00
Cllr's Travel/Chair's allowance	£200.00
Staff costs and N.I.	£20,500.00
Admin Council Room	
Cleaning	£300.00
Stationery/office supplies	£150.00
Electricity	£900.00
Telephone	£180.00
Broadband	£200.00
Payroll Charge	£0.00
Council Tax	£680.00
Travel & Post	£300.00
Affiliation Fees and Subscriptions	£1,400.00
Audit Charge	£450.00
Insurance	£1,700.00
Water	£120.00
Repairs	£3,000.00
Photocopier	£150.00
Training	£250.00
Office equipment	£120.00
Legal costs	£250.00
Hire	£120.00
Misc.	£1500.00
Election costs	£600.00
S137 Payments	£600.00
Website	£5,000.00
Misc. contingency	£2000.00
Vat incurred on payments	£4000.00

PARISH COUNCIL TOTAL	£87,220.00
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7. **RESERVES** – The Clerk advised that £195k was held in the current account. The CIL payments currently due in the next financial year had been included under “Grants and Loans” under “Income” .He stressed that there was no guarantee that all the funds would be forthcoming if there was a change in circumstance. It was generally felt there were sufficient reserves to cope with any potential additional costs.
8. **RISK ASSESSMENT/FINANCIAL REGULATIONS** – Cllr Mulliner reported that the Financial Regulations had been reviewed and agreed at a previous meeting. Another Councillor was reviewing the Risk Assessment.
9. **MATTERS OF REPORT AND ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING** – TBA. Next meeting June 2022

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.44pm