

All minutes are draft until ratified by the Committee at the next meeting

Marchwood Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee in the Pine Room at Marchwood Village Hall on Monday 30 September 2024 at 7.30pm.

Present: Councillors: N Buckett, J Case, D Hindle (Chairman), K Petty, M Proctor and M Saxby.

In attendance: T Dudley - Clerk to the Parish Council, Angela Woodward, Responsible Finance Officer.

Apologies

PR/24/008 – Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Leath (work), Mballa (NFDC meeting) and Shelley (annual leave).

Resolved – to accept apologies for absence from Cllr Leath, Mballa and Shelley.

Declarations of Interest

PR/24/009 – There were no declarations pecuniary interest for this meeting.

Public Participation

PR/24/010– No members of the public attended this meeting.

Minutes

PR/24/011 - RESOLVED: to accept the minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 24 June 2024 as a true and accurate record. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

Financial reports

PR/24/012 –

a) Income and Expenditure up to 24 September 2024

Resolved – to approve the income and expenditure up to 24 September 2024.

b) Orders for payment 1 June 2024 to 24 September 2024

Resolved – to approve the Orders for payment 1 June 2024 to 24 September 2024.

c) Cash and Investment reconciliation to 24 September 2024

Resolved – to approve the bank reconciliation to 24 September 2024.

d) Budget Review

Following a request from members at previous meetings to review all expenditure for 2025/2026 budget in order to limit any increase in the precept and to keep it within inflation limits, the Clerk and RFO outlined some potential savings.

All minutes are draft until ratified by the Committee at the next meeting

Currently the village news was published four times per year, it was proposed to reduce the publication to three times per year in the short term. A need for improvements to the articles in the publication was highlighted. Staff were asked to invite schools and other organisations to provide articles of interest to the community.

It was thought that some local residents had interesting life stories that parishioners would find interesting to read such as the one previously published from a former Southampton footballer. The reduced publication could reduce the precept by approximately £1,000 per annum.

An increase in the vehicle maintenance cost was highlighted. The Clerk explained that the vehicles were diesel and not appropriate for the short journeys around the village as this was causing problems with the emissions requiring the vehicles to be taken to the garage on a regular basis to clear the build up and blockages within the DPF filters.

Members requested a feasibility study be provided to the next meeting to ascertain the most appropriate vehicles for the ground staff and whether these should be new, used, petrol, hybrid or electric and also if it would be more prudent to buy or lease the vehicles.

The tree budget had reached the planned expenditure for 2024/2025 with six months remaining until the end of the financial year.

The unplanned felling of trees was explained and the rationale of why unplanned works were authorised.

The tree budget was to be increased by £5,000 for 2025/2026.

Members requested that instead of replacing the noticeboards some maintenance was undertaken such as painting and replacing the Perspex to enable this the funds would be made available in the budget.

The Council currently hire the Pine room at the village hall for meetings, the Clerk asked if Members would consider holding Council meetings in the Hub to make a saving on the budget.

It was agreed that further consideration would be given to this with improvements being made and appropriate seating and tables being sought priced.

Consideration was also given to making the Hub available as a warm space where parishioners could come and socialise and have a hot or cold drink and a snack, this could also potentially increase sales of the snack's/drink's machines.

The events budget was considered; at the present time exact costs for a Christmas event was unknown.

All minutes are draft until ratified by the Committee at the next meeting

e) **EMR Transfer**

The RFO sought approval to transfer budget headings 4220, 4225, 4230,4235 and 4190 to the appropriate EMR.

Resolved – to approve the transfer of budget 4220, 4225, 4230,4235 and 4190 to the appropriate EMR.

Review of Hire Charges for Sports Activities

PR/24/014 – The costings for the hire of the sports facilities and staff costs was considered.

Resolved – Not to increase the hire of the sports facilities at the Lloyd Recreation Ground for the financial year 2025/2026.

Reserves Policy Review

PR/24/014 – Resolved – no amendments were required to the Reserves policy.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm. Date of next meeting 18 November 2024.