

## Swilland and Winesham grouped Parish Council

*Clerk to the Parish Council: Steve Barron*

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### MINUTES

#### Finance Committee Meeting

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 7.30pm

The School Room Winesham Baptist Church

1. Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Present: Dr Nicol (Chair), Mr Templeman, Dr Williams and Mrs Offord.
2. Declarations of Interest: None
3. Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022. These were confirmed as a true record and were signed by the chair.
4. To Review Parish Council spending for the year so far.  
Clerk reported that so far spend from budget this financial year was £16k. UTB current bank balance was £18k (all figures approx.). Forecast out turn pending spend was a further £6k. Predicted general reserves held at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 (including SBS account) were £19k.  
Forecast spend and income were down by nearly £5k due to the SCC Gibraltar Crossroads project 50% payment and spend not included as yet.
5. To consider any required adjustments to current Parish Council Budget for 2022 – 2023 and reserves.  
Recent grants received from ESC totalling £1299.99p were agreed to be added to the budget sheet. **New agreed adjusted budget was £29,249.23p income (Including some draw on reserves) and £29,079.99p expenditure.**
6. To review the rents levied at the Playing Field and Allotment Gardens.  
Playing Field rent was reviewed and previous rents were considered over recent years. It was evident that the current rent did not cover the current annual grounds maintenance cost of £921.76p which was expected to rise in 2023. **It was agreed to raise the rent to £925 from £875.**  
Allotment rents were reviewed, with Coopers Close plots now having a council provided water connection. Previous agreed strategy was reviewed in this light and **there would be no increase in rents for 2023 and all plots stay at £10.** Water bill amounts were currently unknown and Finance Committee discussed this and agreed to review these at the end of 2023.
7. To consider a donation to the Baptist Church for Hall Hire.  
The meeting was reminded of the frequent ad-hoc free use the PC had to The School Room at the Baptist Church. **It was agreed to make a donation of £100 to the Winesham Baptist Church.**



8. To consider the Parish Council Draft Budget for 2023 – 2024.  
A draft 2023-24 base budget proposal had been circulated. This was discussed by the meeting and it was agreed as an acceptable base to build the final draft budget on with further discussion later in the meeting.  
**It was agreed before item 11, that an earmarked reserve of £1.6k should be allocated in case an election was legally required in 2023. Also £150 for election administration, £3.2k for a SID purchase funded by grant, were added.**
9. To consider potential 2023-24 budget for any coronation events.  
After discussion about possible options for celebrating the coronation day of King Charles III, it was agreed that Council support would be for events that benefit the community, not any fundraising events. **It was agreed that in anticipation that the PC will wish to support a major celebration in the two villages, then a contingency allowance of £1k should be added to the 2023-24 budget as a draw from reserves.**
10. To consider any potential major projects referencing the current Council Project Planning Document.  
After checking the items listed in the document, **it was agreed that none of the items in the projects plan should be included in the 2023-24 budget. With item 13, the picnic table, this should be referred back to full council.**
11. To set the Precept for 2023 – 2024  
**After adding the agreed items to the base budget, it was agreed to set the precept for 2023-24 to £15,444.35p, which is an increase of 5%.**  
  
**Hence the meeting agreed the full budget to be presented to council in January was £20,712.35 income (including draw on reserves) and £20,570.00p expenditure.**

Meeting closed at 8:53 p.m.

8/11/23 