

MINUTES OF HORSMONDEN PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE AT HORSMONDEN VILLAGE HALL

ON TUESDAY 23 JULY 2024 AT 7.30 PM

Present:

Cllr Russell (Chair) Councillors, Richards and March.

In attendance:

Lucy Noakes (Clerk). No members of the public

Declarations of Interest:

Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in accordance with the Code of Conduct were invited. None were recorded.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

2. NOMINATE AND VOTE FOR CHAIR PERSON OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

Cllr Richards proposed Cllr Russell as Chair. Cllr Russell accepted. Seconded Cllr March .
Unanimous.

3. PUBLIC SESSION (no decisions)

None

Cllr Russell proposed moving item 4 to the end of the meeting to allow time for the minutes to be printed off for signing. Unanimous.

5. BUDGETMONITORING

(Appendix 1 –Detailed Receipts & Payments)

Administration

Cllr Russell commented on the following headings:

4240 Elections – This had not been required but this could always be vired to another budget heading if required later on in the year.

Outside Spaces

4320 Christmas lights – This will result in a overspend for the new lights, as already agreed.

4330 Tree Works – nothing left in this budget. More detailed surveys for the large horse chestnut tree may need to be considered when budgeting for next year.

Toilets

4360 Electricity - clerk to check that the contract runs until October 2025.

Clerk to claim public toilets scheme contribution for 2024-25 from TWBC

Assets Management

4700 War Memorial – The memorial may need cleaning prior to next year’s Summer festival if possible – Clerk to look up costs for budget.

Statement from the Chair:

The Committee considered the current expenditure against the approved budget and were satisfied that there were no significant variances from what was to be expected at this stage in the financial year.

4. MINUTES

The Clerk had circulated the minutes from 28 November 2023 plus appendices beforehand and these were proposed for acceptance by Cllr Richards, seconded Cllr March and voted for unanimously.

The Clerk had circulated the minutes from 13 February 2024 plus appendices beforehand and these were proposed for acceptance by Cllr March, seconded Cllr Richards and voted for unanimously.

6. CONSIDER THE COUNCIL'S RESERVES 24 -25

(Appendix 2 - Ear marked Reserves)

The Committee discussed S106 monies held by TWBC for Horsmonden towards the play area, which must be claimed by 2028. These would be added to the current amount in EMR to provide a new play area at Locket Green before 2028.

They also considered the amount held in S106 monies for Village Hall. The amount held in EMR for Village Hall would be added to this to provide either a new Village Hall or refurbishment of the existing Hall at the appropriate time.

The EMR currently held in Institute /Clock tower is for the current projects to restore the roof and clock tower which was expected to come in on budget and should be concluded within the current financial year .

Bearing in mind the above information, the Committee considered the current level of EMRs and concluded they were adequate for purpose at the present time.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (Discussion only)

The following items were mentioned which should be considered when budgeting for next Financial year :

The Clerks laptop and VDU/Keyboard

Cllr Laptops?

Boosting the signal for internet in the Village Hall and office (perhaps investigating fibre to premises)

There being no further matters to discuss the meeting ended at 9.25pm.