

Hardwick Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 18 January 2022 at 7.00 pm
Held at The Cabin at St Mary's, Hardwick

Present: Councillors: A Gill (Chairman), P Joslin, S Rose, A Joolia, A Everitt and I Giddings.

In attendance: Mrs Gail Stoehr (Clerk).

Open public session including reports from the County and District Councillors

None.

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Wellbelove and also District Cllr Chamberlain.

2. Declarations of interest

2.1 To receive declarations of interests from councillors on items on the agenda and details of dispensations held

Cllrs Gill, Joslin, Rose, Joolia, Everitt and Giddings declared an interest in the precept setting as Council Tax payers, and declared the existence of their dispensations.

2.2 To receive written requests for dispensation and grant any as appropriate for items on this agenda

None.

3. To review the budget for financial year ending 31 March 2022 against receipts and payments and to consider any outstanding projects or spending and to make arrangements for these and to consider and earmark any reserves

The budget for the year to date was reviewed.

- An outstanding invoice of £250 for web design was expected by the financial year end. Cllr Joolia is to send the invoice to the Clerk.
- Under-spends were considered.
 - Special projects – A resident had raised the notice board in Limes Road with the Chairman. RESOLVED a proposal for a replacement notice board is to be an agenda item for the Parish Council meeting next week and Cllr Joolia should and bring a recommendation and costs to the meeting.
- RESOLVED to adopt a policy that under-spend in budget headings such as special projects, trees and assets maintenance etc not be put in reserves but to release them to general reserves. (Prop SR, 2nd AG, unanimous)
- RESOLVED rename special projects capital projects and to break these into separate lines to aid transparency.
- RESOLVED to separate out S145 (Entertainment)
- RESOLVED to earmark the Community Centre £15,000 at the year end.
- The accounts for Hardwick Happenings had been sent to the Chairman, who outlined the accounts to August 2021. RESOLVED that Hardwick Happenings should be an agenda item for next week's meeting.
- The Recreation Ground is subject to a three year plan from Mel Pooley. Details of the next three years is to be obtained.

4. To consider a draft budget based on historic costs and existing contracts for FY2023 and proposals by Councillors :

4.1 To consider tenders for grass cutting and village maintenance 2022 to 2024 and to appoint a contractor

- . RESOLVED having considered the Grass cutting and village maintenance tenders received to award the three year contract for 2022-2024 to RH

Landscapes, subject to the RPI increase which in the Parish Council’s opinion whilst not the lowest tender was more realistic when compared to the lowest and as the Council’s existing contractor represented the best value. (Prop IG, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

- Streetlights – Due to the increased costs of electricity with variable rates, the Clerk is seeking quotations.
- Millers Way surfacing shortfall should be funded from the earmarked reserve and the Capstone Fields S106 deed of variation which the Parish Council is considering at its meeting next week.–
- RESOLVED to make provision of £15,000 for the lights project at the St Mary’s access road and £10,000 for grounds improvement.
- Community Centre fitting out £15,000
- S145 Entertainment (Queen’s Platinum Jubilee) £3500
- It was noted that the raffle proceeds from the end of Covid party was donated to charity as this was not the Parish Council’s money.
- Projected income - £4000 (Pavilion rent), £250 (pitch hire), £2500 (bank interest).

5. **To approve the budget for financial year ending 31 March 2023**

RESOLVED that the budget be approved. (Prop SR, 2nd IG, unanimous)

6. **To set and demand the precept required for the Parish Council to balance its budget**

RESOLVED, after releasing funds from General Reserves, to set and demand from the District Council a precept of £62,000, being an increase of 2% over last year on the new Band D rate, being the amount required by the Parish Council to balance the budget for FY23. (Prop SR, 2nd IG, unanimous)

3.1 **Appointment of Internal Auditor for FY 2022**

RESOLVED to appoint Bill Lewis as Internal Auditor for FY 2022 at a similar price for last year.

7. **Closure of meeting**

There was no further business and the meeting was declared closed by the Chairman at 8.50 pm.

SignedChairmandate
