

**ST CUTHBERT (OUT) PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE FINANCE & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
ON WEDNESDAY 7TH JUNE 2023, 7PM**

PRESENT: Cllrs J Baker; M Cooke; T Hathway (Deputy Chairperson); M Hayden.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms Michele Exton (Parish Clerk).

01. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO CONSIDER THE REASONS GIVEN

Apologies were received from Cllr E Danson.

RESOLVED: To approve the reasons given for Members' absence.

02. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

02.01. There were no declarations of interest.

02.02. There were no requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests.

02.03. There were no requests for dispensation.

03. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no items for exclusion.

04. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no Members of the Public present.

05. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 14TH MARCH 2023

RESOLVED: To confirm and sign as correct record the minutes of the Finance & Scrutiny Committee held on Tuesday 14th March 2023.

06. REVIEW BUDGET AND SPEND FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2022/23

The Committee reviewed the budget and spend for 2022/23 and scrutinised listed items.

RESOLVED: To recommend to Full Council to approve the budget and spend for the financial year 2022/23.

07. TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

Cllr Hathway explained that Somerset Council is willing to support a 20mph zone in Dinder and has provided an estimate of costs following the collection and analysis of traffic data. The Committee considered this request against the principle of inclusiveness throughout the Parish and would support, subject to Full Council approval, a Parish Traffic Management Grant Program of £5,000 in the 2024/25 budget which would assist with the costs but which would require applying villages to also contribute towards the costs.

08. ALLOTMENTS RENT REVIEW

The Committee reviewed the recommendation of the Asset Management Committee 17th May 2023 concerning the allotment rents 2023/24.

RESOLVED: To recommend to Full Council to approve that the allotment rents for 2023/24 are increased as follows:

In-Parish: Full plot = £45; Full plot (OAP concession) = £35; Half plot = £30; Half plot (OAP concession) = £25.

Out-of-Parish: Full plot = £67.50; Full plot (OAP concession) = £52.50; Half plot = £45; Half plot (OAP concession) = £37.50

09. DRAFT 3-YEAR BUDGET FORECAST 2024/25 TO 2026/27

The Committee considered a draft 3-year budget from 2024/25 to 2026/27.

RESOLVED: To present the draft 3-year budget forecast to Full Council as a guide for annual budget setting.

10. INVESTMENT STRATEGY

The Committee had been provided with the Statutory Guidance on Local Government Investments (3rd edition). The development of a treasury management investment policy with the priorities of security, liquidity and yield, in that order of importance, and the capacity and skills of the Council were initially discussed. As high interest bank accounts offer security, the Chairman will research the various options and interest rates and will report back to the Committee.

11. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

16th August 2023.