

**ST CUTHBERT (OUT) PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE FINANCE & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
ON WEDNESDAY 24TH AUGUST 2022, 7PM**

PRESENT: Cllrs J Baker; M Cooke; E Danson; M Hayden; G Pettitt.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms Michele Exton (Parish Clerk).

01. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO CONSIDER THE REASONS GIVEN

No apologies were received.

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 of the Press and Public.

04. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no Members of the Public present.

05. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8TH JUNE 2022

RESOLVED: To confirm and sign as correct record the minutes of the Finance & Scrutiny Committee held on Wednesday 8th June 2022.

06. GRANT POLICIES

The Committee reviewed the Council's Grant Policy and a draft Green Villages Grant Policy and process.

RESOLVED: To recommend to Full Council to approve the Council's amended Grant Policy as reviewed by the Finance & Scrutiny Committee 24th August 2022.

RESOLVED: To recommend to Full Council to approve the Council's Green Villages Grant Policy as reviewed by the Finance & Scrutiny Committee 24th August 2022.

07. REVIEW BUDGET AND SPEND TO DATE (2022/23)

The Committee reviewed the 2022/23 budget and spend (first 3 months) and scrutinised listed items.

RESOLVED: To recommend to Full Council to approve the budget and spend for the first 3 months 2022/23.

08. MARKED RESERVES

The Committee reviewed the Council's Marked Reserves and agreed that £75 for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee events should be removed from the Parish Event item.

RESOLVED: To recommend to Full Council to approve the Council's Marked Reserves as reviewed and amended by the Finance & Scrutiny Committee 24th August 2022.

09. BUDGET 2023/24

The Committee considered possible budget headings and amounts for the annual budget proposals for the Financial Year 2023/24 and were mindful of the current cost-of-living crisis and projected inflation rates. Provisional suggested adjustments were as follows: Car Allowance Members to be sufficient to cover weekly play area inspections; Election Costs reduced to £3,000 (all monies in the Election Costs budget and Marked Reserves up to 31/03/23 to be used towards reducing the Council's 2023/24 precept charge); Heritage Signs reduced to £1,500; Phone Boxes reduced to £500; School Crossing Patrol increased to £2,500; Special Projects – Full Council to discuss if this should be removed; The Leat reduced to £250; to consider using £15,000 of the Council's reserves towards reducing the precept charge; removal of the following cost centres as they are no longer needed: Online Media; Newsletters; Ward Parish Meetings; Public Works Loan; Church Grants. In view of the current inflation situation, Cllr Hayden agreed to draft 3 budgets based on these amendments and 10%, 15% and 18% inflation.

10. FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

The Committee reviewed the Council's Financial Regulations.

RESOLVED: To recommend to Full Council to approve an amendment to the Council's Financial Regulation 4.5.

11. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

16th November 2022 in the meeting room at Coxley Memorial Hall, BA5 1QZ.