

**ST CUTHBERT (OUT) PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**  
**OF THE FINANCE & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**ON WEDNESDAY 14TH DECEMBER 2022, 5PM**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs J Baker; M Cooke; M Hayden; G Pettitt; J Reeves.  
(Cllr Reeves was co-opted onto the meeting. Cllr Cooke left the meeting after Cllr Reeves was co-opted).

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Ms Michele Exton (Parish Clerk); a Member of the Public.

**01. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO CONSIDER THE REASONS GIVEN**

Apologies were received from Cllr 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**

A Member of the Public spoke on item 06 for the Horrington Cricket Club grant application.

**05. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2022**

**RESOLVED:** To confirm and sign as correct record the minutes of the Finance & Scrutiny Committee held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

**06. GRANT APPLICATIONS**

The Committee considered grant applications from the following:

- Horrington Cricket Club.
- St Pauls Church, Easton - Warm Space grant.

**RESOLVED:** To recommend to Full Council to approve a grant of £2,500 to Horrington Cricket Club to assist with the purchase of equipment.

**RESOLVED:** To approve a grant of £500 to St Pauls Church, Easton towards the additional costs involved in providing a Warm Space.

**07. MEMBERS' CAR ALLOWANCE FOR WEEKLY PLAY AREA INSPECTIONS AND SID DEPLOYMENT 2022/23**

The Committee discussed the mileage costs associated with weekly play area inspections and SID deployment for the financial year 2022/23. Mileage costs associated with deployment of the Council's SID are currently paid from Members' Car Allowance.

**RESOLVED:** Members' mileage costs associated with the Council's weekly play area inspections for 2022/23 are to be paid from the Ground Maintenance Reserves budget.

## **08. BUDGET 2023/24**

The Committee conducted its final review of possible budget headings and amounts for the annual budget proposals and the precept charge for the Financial Year 2023/24 to recommend to Full Council for approval. The Committee had previously used the Council's draft 3-year forecast budget as guidance for their initial considerations of the budget. Full Council 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022 had reviewed the Finance & Scrutiny Committee 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022 proposed 1st draft budget and had agreed that it would be prudent to apply an inflation rate of 15% for non-fixed cost budgets for calculating the 2023/24 budget.

**RESOLVED:** To recommend to Full Council additional amendments to the proposed 2023/24 draft budget as follows: Car Allowance (Members) £1500; Special Projects (includes Council Storage) £2,500; Income £3013; £5,000 of the Council's Reserves to be used to reduce the precept.

**RESOLVED:** To recommend to Full Council that the budget for the financial year 2023/24 should be £169,896 and that the precept charge should be £161,883 (with a corresponding Band D Council Tax of £79.36).

## **09. MARKED RESERVES**

The Committee reconsidered their provisional suggestions for the Council's Marked Reserves following feedback from Full Council 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

**RESOLVED:** To recommend to Full Council that the following amounts are moved to Marked Reserves; Election Costs £13,200; Environmental Initiatives £3,000; Heritage Signs £3,120; Neighbourhood Plan £531; Phone Boxes £1,020; Rights of Way £1,000; 67 Bus Service (to be renamed "Bus Services") £1,664; School Crossing Patrol £2,000; Street Furniture (bus shelter refurbishments) £3,000; The Leat £3,000; Special Projects (includes Council Storage) £2,500.

## **10. THE COUNCIL'S STANDING ORDERS**

The Committee reviewed the Council's Standing Orders which are based on NALC's Model Standing Orders (updated April 2022).

**RESOLVED:** To recommend to Full Council to approve the Council's Standing Orders including the amendments to 5.j.vi and 18.a.v.

## **11. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

14<sup>th</sup> March 2023 TBC.