

GREAT SANKEY PARISH COUNCIL

Finance Committee

Minutes of meeting: Tuesday 3rd January 2023
Whittle Hall Community Centre

Chairman: Cllr Watson
Present: Cllr Clark
Cllr Jones
Cllr Morley
Cllr Hussain
Cllr Pennington

In Attendance: K Carter (Clerk)

1. To receive and approve any apologies for unavoidable absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr Price; Cllr Pennington acted as substitute.

2. To approve the minutes of previous meeting 6/12/2022.

The draft minutes were moved and accepted as a true record of the meeting and signed as such.

FINANCE/2023/1

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 6th December 2022 as a true record.

3. To consider the budget and precept level for 2023-24 and make a recommendation to full Council.

The draft budget had been amended to include updated figures for the electric vans and grounds costs. Income from the community centres is expected to increase to £90,000 in 2023-24 as bookings have increased following the pandemic and the council will implement the small increase in hire rates deferred from April 2020. Predicted expenditure is slightly lower for 2023-24 than this year. The Council has invested significantly in the community centres this year, with a false ceiling at Whittle Hall, renovation of the car parks, installation of solar panels at Bewsey Barn and Whittle Hall and new play equipment at both Tim Parry Recreation Ground and Vicarage Community Park. There is some planned expenditure on the centres for 2023-24 but they are currently well-maintained and large expenditure is not required. The Council also managed to fix a new 4-year energy contract in March 2022 which has protected the council from the increasing prices. The ceiling at Whittle Hall, room divider at Bewsey Barn, and the solar PV will also help to reduce energy costs at these centres in the long-term. The draft budget for 2023-24 was accepted.

FINANCE/2023/2

RECOMMENDED: That the draft budget for 2023-24 is accepted (Accounts & Audit Regs 2015, Reg 3).

The precept requirement was then discussed in detail. An end-of-year estimate of unspent funds from the current budget had also been presented along with remaining amounts in earmarked reserves for long-term projects. There has been an increase in the tax base of 297 which gives the council an additional £13,876 and a total income of £506,024 at the current precept level. This would be sufficient to cover the difference in income expected from the

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community centres and overall expenditure for the council with a surplus of £60,520. This will be added to the funds in earmarked reserves for long-term projects along with any unspent amounts from the current financial year. The Parish Council has two large long-term projects underway (drainage for the Parish Playing Field and repurposing of the Sankey Station building) which will require considerable investment both from the council and from external sources. Members discussed whether it would be prudent to implement a small increase in the precept of 2%, rather than have to impose a more significant increase in a few years. A 2% increase would raise a further £10,000 and would only increase the precept by 93 pence for the year for Band D properties. Following discussion and voting, this proposal was not carried. Members voted to recommend to full council (4 in favour, 2 abstentions) that the precept remains at £46.72 per Band D household for the financial year 2023-24.

FINANCE/2023/3

RECOMMENDED: That the precept level remains at £46.72 per Band D household for 2023-24, giving an income of £506,024 (LGFA 1992, Part 1, s41).

4. To scrutinise financial expenditure arising since the last meeting, including payments by Direct Debit.

A list of payments to be made had been circulated prior to the meeting. The following payments were scrutinised and approved.

Presented By	Description	Amount
Paul Wills	GSPC Van mot and service	£360.00
Nightingale	Solar PV BB – 25% deposit	£3,898.50
Nightingale	Solar PV WH – 25% deposit	£3,778.50
Rise Associates	Fees for December activities	£1,200.00
EDR Landscapes	Grounds Maintenance	£4,777.70
B&B Hygiene Ltd	Cleaning Supplies	£277.81
A Jones Landscapes	Grounds Maintenance	£1300.00
Trade UK	Centre Maintenance	£9.98
Equals Business	Top-up of pre-paid card account for petty cash	£603.00
Comtec	Emergency Light Supply and fitting – BB	£319.00
	Total	£16,164.49

FINANCE/2023/4

RESOLVED: To authorise all payments listed above (under LGA 1976 s19 or LGA 1972 s15(5), s101, 111, 112, 133, 142 or 137).

The following direct debits on the Council's account during November were also checked:

BT	01/11/2022	WIFI/Telephone	TP	104.71
BT	01/11/2022	WIFI/Telephone	BB	88.86
Water Plus	01/11/2022	Water charges	HM	29.59
Water Plus	01/11/2022	Water charges	WH	29.18
Water Plus	01/11/2022	Water charges	HL	67.81



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Water Plus	01/11/2022	Water charges	BB	125.03
BT	07/11/2022	WIFI/Telephone	HL	95.73
SWALEC GAS	21/11/2022	Gas	HM	150.70
SWALEC GAS	21/11/2022	Gas	WH	57.31
SWALEC GAS	21/11/2022	Gas	BB	23.11
SWALEC GAS	21/11/2022	Gas	HL	67.28
BT	30/11/2022	WIFI/Telephone	WH Hall	88.86
WBC	30/11/2022	Oct Business Rates	HM	141.00
WBC	30/11/2022	Oct Business Rates	TP	166.00
WBC	30/11/2022	Oct Business Rates	WH	119.00
WBC	30/11/2022	Oct Business Rates	BB	137.00
GCI Network Solutions	30/11/2022	Office 365	Office	82.07
Utility Warehouse	30/11/2022	Phone charges	Office	81.40
			TOTAL	£1654.64

5. To consider any quotes received and authorise or make recommendations to full Council where appropriate.

There were no quotes.

6. To consider requests for financial assistance; to decide if any donations are to be made or if requests should be recommended to full Council.

There was one request for a contribution towards Warrington Armed Forces Day. The Council had received a presentation in December on the event, its background and its future. The event no longer receives funding from the Army Sport Control Board and if it doesn't have enough support within Warrington to continue, several neighbouring towns have expressed an interest in hosting the event. A breakdown of costs had been provided; there is currently a shortfall of £6000; it is hoped this can be raised through sponsorship and donations.

FINANCE/2023/5

RECOMMENDED: That the Parish Council supports the event over a 3-year period with an initial contribution of £3,000 for 2023, reducing in subsequent years and subject to the following:

- That the Parish Council's contribution is recognised in publicising/press releases for the event
- That the Parish Council's financial contribution is reviewed each year following the event (LG (Misc. Prov.) Act 1976, s19)

7. Budget 2022-23 – to scrutinise documentation, and when satisfied as to correctness to sign off financial reports and bank reconciliations for November.

The budget monitoring sheets, and bank reconciliation were scrutinised and agreed.

FINANCE/2023/6

RESOLVED: To accept the bank reconciliation and budget monitoring pages for November 2022 (Accounts & Audit Regs 2015, Reg 4).



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9. To authorise payment of wages, tax and ERNIC for December.

The list of wages to be paid was considered and authorised. Total Employment Costs (including salaries, pensions & HMRC) were £14,412.99.

FINANCE/2023/7

RESOLVED: To authorise payment of wages and HMRC costs as listed for December 2022 (LGA 1972 s112).

