



Finance and Employment Committee (FEC) Meeting

Minutes of meeting held Tuesday 31st October 2023

Present: Angela Haydon (AH), Stephen Lark (SL), Joanna Wade (JW), Rachael Turner (RT), Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer.

1 Budget

The Clerk reported on the current year, with the mid-year forecast looking likely to come roughly within budget at year end in March 2024, save for any unexpected expenditure, resulting in 18.4 k as a contingency to carry over. This is within reasonable limits as recommended by the Auditors.

Assuming inflation may be around 3% for the 24-25 year, the Clerk produced a proposed budget with a spend of £54,264 (an increase from £52,800 from the current 23-24 year).

2 Precept

The current Precept amount is £50,000 and did not increase for the 23-24 year. The FEC discussed and agreed the recommendation the Precept should be increased to £52,000. Whilst SDC has not yet given an indication of likely increases to Council Tax, if a 3% increase was applied this would result in the Precept element of Council Tax for a Band D household being £77.96 per year. For the 23-24 year this amount is £77.28.

The proposed budget will be circulated to full HPC for their consideration at the November meeting and then, once further information is received from SDC on the Precept, the proposal and decision on the final budget and Precept amount will be made at the January 24 meeting.

3 S137 Grants

There is currently a below expected spend on S137 grants that were budgeted for the 23-24 year. There are some Grant Applications in for discussion at the November meeting. It was proposed that some of the monies could be given to each school in the parish, to the bell ringers and some for the village halls. The Clerk will try to reach out to other local voluntary organisations and publicise on social media that limited funding is available.



4 CIL Monies

There is currently £5,400 in CIL monies. It was suggested some of this should be spent on Public Footpath improvements. As the results of the HPC Footpath Survey were not yet available, Councillors are to contact the Clerk with details of those footpaths believed to be in the most need of repair.

Some of the monies will be required for highway safety improvements.

5 Clerks Appraisal

The Clerk's annual Appraisal was held following the meeting. A review of salary is to be undertaken. As the Clerk is currently studying for CiLCA (the industry qualification) which takes around 200 hours to complete, it was agreed the Clerk could claim up to 2 hours per week during the one year study period, if needed, from November 2023 to October 2024.