



"Not for self"

Oswestry Rural Parish Council

Minutes

of Finance Committee meeting

held at 2.00pm on Wednesday 18 September 2024 at Trefonen Village Hall

Present:

Cllr Peter Richardson, Cllr Martin Bennett, Cllr. Bob Kimber. Cllr William Jones

Clerk to the Council:

Kathryn Lloyd

In attendance:

No member of the public

Apologies of absence

None

1. Minutes of the Meeting

The minutes of the Finance Committee meeting of the Parish Council held on 26 June 2024 were considered for approval.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2024 be approved as a correct record.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests, Bias, and Pre-determination

None

3. Annual Internal Audit Action Plan

The Clerk provided details of the action plan as part of the internal audit recommendations which included several proposals.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to recommend Full Council accept progress of the plan to date.

4. External Audit 2023/24

The Chairman advised members the External Auditor's report and Certificate for the Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) 2023/24 had been approved.

Members **NOTED** The external audit for 2023/24 had been concluded and that the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR was in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters had come to the auditors' attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had not been met.

5. Community Infrastructure Levy Funding (CIL) Return 2023/24

The Clerk provided details of the CIL funding for 2023/24. Amendments will be made to the committed expenditure for a number of schemes. The Strategic Plan requires a review in order to unreserve / reallocate funds from projects no longer being progressed.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to accept the details included on the CIL monitoring return 2023/24.

6. Policies

Cllr Martin Bennett advised the following policies had been reviewed and updated as appropriate:

- a) Financial Regulations (following new NALC model April 2024)
- b) Standing Orders
- c) Email
- d) Publication Scheme
- e) DPI Dispensation Procedure
- f) Staff Performance
- g) Investment Strategy

The Clerk advised the Council's Financial Regulations had been updated to reflect the NALC April 2024 model to ensure Council is compliant. The Clerk wishes to check the financial limits included in the Standing Orders. The Clerk will add the disclaimer detailed in the Email Policy to her email signature. Cllr Martin Bennett proposed members approve items c - g.

It was **NOTED** that as part of the changes, any Councillor who is in arrears of their Council Tax at the time of the budget setting / precept process must declare it and will not be able to vote on this element.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to recommend to Full Council APPROVAL of items c – g.

7. Mid-Year Review

The Clerk advised members of the financial forecast outturn position. The Clerk does not think the expenditure for the cemetery project scheme will be incurred in 2024/25. The Clerk will check with Cllr Mike Weston and update for the Full Council meeting. This will increase the financial outturn position.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to accept the financial outturn position subject to changes for the cemetery works and Nantmawr ATC costs.

PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the above Act and due to the confidential nature of the following business to be transacted it was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the public and press should not be present

8. Quotes

a) Members considered a quote from Colin Turner to sand and varnish Parish Noticeboards at a cost of £460.00. Members felt with was value for money and **AGREED** to waiver Financial Regulations.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to recommend Full Council accept the quote.

b) Members considered the revised offer from Shropshire Council Joint Energy Scheme following the mapping of lighting by Cllr Peter Richardson. Members felt this is value for money.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to recommend the revised quote be approved by Full Council.

9. Date of Next meeting

To be agreed.

The meeting closed at 2.25 pm