

Wetheral Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Grants Committee held on 3 December 2024 at 10.00am held in Wetheral Village Community Hall.

Chairman; Cllr White

Present:

Cllr Higginbotham

Cllr S Higgs

Cllr A Durkin

F&G 21/24 Apologies

Resolved to receive and accept apologies from Cllr Dolan.

F&G 22/24 Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th October 2024

Resolved to authorise the Chairman to sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the meeting held on 8th October 2024.

F & G 23/24 Declarations of Interest

Resolved Cllrs Higginbotham & Higgs declared an interest in agenda item 8a(i), grant application from Wetheral Playing Fields Association.

F&G 24/24 Request for Dispensation

Resolved requests for dispensation were requested and approved for Cllrs Durkin, Higginbotham and Higgs as residents of the Parish when considering the Parish Council precept for 2024-25.

F&G 25/25 Financial Review

(i) **Resolved** to receive the Bank reconciliation to 30th November 2024

Current Account £ 28,019.12

Deposit Account £168,387.69

Cumberland BS £41,051.21

Total in the bank £ 238,174.74(inc. outstanding payments and receipts)

(ii) **Resolved** to receive the six-month account summary, expenditure £166,465.24, income £206,312.55. The end of year is projected at the level of annual precept £172,000.

F&G26/24 Bank Account Risk Assessment

(i) **Resolved** to receive the financial risk assessment produced following the last meeting min F&G17/24(ii). Clerk to revise and submit to the full council for consideration.

(ii) **Resolved** to retain the council funds in Barclays Bank and Cumberland Building Society, the cost of setting up and managing additional account to hold monies up to £85,000 is not cost effective. The possibility of both establishments defaulting causing the loss of funds invested is minimal. Therefore;

a. Funds shall be moved to the Cumberland BS account to increase the holdings to £85,000.

b. Barclays shall hold the remaining funds.

F&G 27/24 Projected Expenditure Variances 24/25

- (i) Noted the following variances to estimates ;
 - a. Installation of Durranshill Christmas tree – Budget £800 – actual £2320
 - b. Purchase and install, new toilet for Cemetery- Budget £2000- actual £1727.00
 - c. Parish wide tree inspection -Budget £1100 – actual £1300 (cost for inspection of Turnmire tree included as additional item)
 - d. Fence for LPG tank Scotby, postponed until 2025.(£2000)
 - e. Bus shelter Durranshill, postponed until 2025, (£6500) these funds were allocated against the Christmas tree installation costs.
 - f. British Gas – dispute regarding electric charges £4100, to consider the electric supplier as the contract is up for renewal. This has been based on the invoices this financial year. **Resolved** Cllrs Higginbotham & Higgs to inspect all previous invoices for the chapel electricity and challenge the charges.
 - g. Purchase a speed indicator device this financial year as per budget.

F&G 28/24 Grants

- a. *Grant requests considered*
 - (i) Wetheral Petanque Club, request for funding towards new pitch due to increased number of players- £1000, **Resolved** to recommend to full council to award up to £1000.
 - (ii) Warwick on Eden & Aglionby Memorial Hall request for funding towards heating controls and installation of broadband- £750. **Resolved** to recommend to full council to award up to £750 subject to a completed grant application.

F&G 29/24 Expenditure considered in preparation for budget 2025/26

Resolved to accept the following budgets with amendments.(All revised budgets to be issued)

- (i) Cemetery -Reduce tree work to £2500, and contingency to £650.
- (ii) Rights of Way – Reduce grass cutting by £3000, remove contingency £4000, remove additional contractor costs £4000. Reduce renewables to £2500.
- (iii) Establishment – allowance for NI increase.
- (iv) Outcomes from the Community Plan - Purchase one speed indicator device, poo bins for Aglionby, Cotehill & Wetheral & new website.
- (v) Grants & Donations – reduce grant fund by £10,000.

F&G 30/24 Precept

Resolved to recommend to the full council a request of £180,000 (One hundred and eighty thousand pounds) is submitted to the Cumberland Council for the Parish Council Precept for 2025/26.

Precept level £180,000; Band D equivalent £64.15 (Tax base 2806) . Note the tax base will increase due to the number of housing units built in 2024.

Next meeting March 2025.