



NEWDIGATE PARISH COUNCIL

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FINANCE MEETING MINUTES

Held at village hall, Newdigate

On 2nd January 2024 at 7.45pm

PRESENT: William Harmsworth (Chairman) John McKenzie-Sage, Bill Kear, Richard Tyson-Davies

1. Apologies for Absence
Phill Crutcher
2. Declarations of Interest
None
3. Review of expenditure and balance sheet for period 2023/2024.
Councillors present reviewed the financial outgoings for the current year up January 2024. Administrative costs of running the council were as expected. Future projects such as Traffic Calming, Nature Reserve and Trig Street had been allocated funds but to date no monies had been spent as these projects were still in progress.
4. Consider Budget and Expenditure for period 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025.
Councillors noted that increases in hall hire, insurance and amenities were most likely in the next financial year and this would have to be taken into account when determining the precept figure. In addition, costs of future projects would amount to a considerable sum although this could be spread over the following years budget.
5. Consider future projects to be allocated funding.
 - Traffic calming and speed reduction was notable a big concern to residents and Peter Perdue has made significant progress in regard to the purchase of a VAS sign for the village. Although the cost is significantly higher than was initially put aside within the budget from last year, this single VAS sign will be connected to mains electricity and will be maintained by SCC. Cil monies accrued in 2022/23 for an amount of £3100 will be allocated to the estimated figure of £7807.96. Councillor Helyn Clack has indicated that she will meet the cost of the second VAS sign and the third will be on a loan basis so no further costs will be met by the Parish Council.

- The Brickworks Nature Reserve will be enjoyed by many locals and will be a substantial addition to the village recreational facilities. This will require significant funding to make it a success.
- Trig Street project has been ongoing for many years and is currently in the stage of assessment with regards to the safety of the exit/entrance onto the road.

6. Discuss Precept figure required for forthcoming year.

All councillors discussed this in depth and were appreciative of the impact on residents in the current financial climate. The Finance Committee agreed an increase of 5% to the Precept for 2024/25. The total Precept figure of £17,720.00 will be submitted to Mole Valley District Council once this has been agreed by the Full Parish Council at the next meeting on Monday 8th January 2024. This equates to a Band D household Council Tax figure being increased from £18.88 pa in the period 2023/24 to a figure of £19.87 pa for 2024/25. Councillors noted the importance of having a reserve fund for the unexpected expenses which may arise in the forthcoming year.

Meeting ended 9pm

END