

## GREAT HORKESLEY PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD MONDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2024 AT GREAT HORKESLEY NEW VILLAGE HALL AT 9.30AM

#### Those present:

Cllr G Baker (Chairman)	Cllr C Arnold
Cllr J Burns-Langton	Cllr M Mead
Cllr M Sudbery	Cllr P Tempest

#### **F23/18 Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the Clerk for producing the Q3 accounts in such a short space of time.

#### **F23/19 Apologies and Reasons for Absence**

All members were present.

#### **F23/20 Declaration of Interests**

Cllr Mead declared an interest in respect of item F23/23, as the Treasurer for an organisation that has requested a grant (Horkesley Village FUNraisers).

Cllr Baker declared an interest in respect of item F23/23, as a member of an organisation associated with two of the grant applications (Gt Horkesley Parochial Church Council and the Youth Club).

#### **F23/21 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

#### **F23/22 Third Quarter Accounts**

The accounts as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 for the Third Quarter of the 2023/24 financial year were considered and approved, and signed by the Chairman on behalf of the Committee.

#### **F23/23 GHPC Grants**

The following grant applications were considered and discussed at length by members (in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, Section 137).

**It was unanimously agreed** (proposed Cllr Arnold) to meet the grant request of £1,000 from 1<sup>st</sup> Great Horkesley Scout Group in full.

Cllr Baker proposed that the request of £1,000 from The Bishop William Ward School Association be met in full. Cllr Arnold suggested an amendment to this proposal, and **it was unanimously agreed** that £1,000 be budgeted for in the budget, but the amount only be awarded once the remaining money for the project had been sourced by the organisation.

The Committee concurred that it is important to support the Great Horkesley Community Events group but thought that further justification was required for the amount being requested and was concerned that there is no bank account in the name of the organisation. **It was unanimously agreed** (proposed Cllr Baker) that £1,000 be budgeted for in the budget,

but evidence be provided that the following conditions are met before any money is released to the group:

- The group is set up as an official organisation with a suitable constitution.
- The group has set up a bank account in the name of the organisation.

From within the £1,000, the Parish Council will meet the cost of the hire of the Jubilee Green and the insurance. The balance of the £1,000 will be available to cover any losses should the need arise.

*Cllr Mead left the room*

**It was unanimously agreed** (proposed Cllr Arnold) to meet the grant request of £700 from Horkesley Village FUNraisers in full.

*Cllr Mead returned to the room.*

*Cllr Baker left the room and Cllr Arnold proceeded to chair the meeting.*

**It was unanimously agreed** (proposed Cllr Arnold) to meet the grant request of £1,000 from Great Horkesley Parochial Church Council in full.

**It was unanimously agreed** (proposed Cllr Arnold) to meet the grant request of £700 from Great Horkesley Youth Club in full.

*Cllr Baker returned to the room and continued to chair the meeting.*

#### **F23/24 2024/25 Budget & Precept**

The draft budget circulated by the Clerk prior to the meeting was considered and discussed at length. Cllr Baker had previously asked the Clerk a number of questions, and summarised the Clerk's responses to members as each line of the budget was reviewed in detail during the meeting. Some minor amendments were made resulting in the Second Draft of the 2024/25 budget.

The Committee discussed the precept for the 2024/25 financial year and concluded that the final figure could not be agreed until an estimate for the cost of changing the speed limit between Great Horkesley and Chesterwell had been received. The Committee agreed that the amount to be transferred from General Reserves to keep the precept down could not be calculated until the cost of introducing the 40mph speed limit was known. It followed that the meeting would be unable to recommend a precept for 2024/25 financial year to Full Council. Every effort would be made to obtain an estimate of the costs before the next Council meeting.

#### **F23/25 Recommendations to Full Council**

**It was unanimously agreed** (proposed Cllr Baker) to recommend to Full Council that the Second Draft of the 2024/25 budget be approved.

#### **F23/26 Next Meetings of the Finance Committee**

The next meeting of the Finance Committee will be on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 9.30am, where the Year End Accounts, Asset Register and Financial Procedures will be reviewed and discussed.

The meeting was closed at 11.23am.