

BERE FERRERS PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held in the Council Chambers on Tuesday 24th January 2023.

Present:

Cllr. R. Leithall	Chair of the Committee
Cllr. P. Crozier	Chair of the Council
Cllr. P. Dennis	Cllr. B. Lamb
Cllr. R. Maycock	Cllr. D. Pengelly

423. Apologies

No apologies were received.

424. Declaration of Interest

No interests were declared.

425. Notification of items for information at the discretion of the Chair. No action can be taken on these items.

No items were raised.

426. Matters arising from the meeting held on the 13th December 2022

The minutes were adopted and approved by Committee members at a Council meeting held on Tuesday 20th December 2022.

Matters Arising

Minute 356 (305(254)) The Clerk has amended the minutes of the F & G.P meeting, held on Tuesday 18th October 2022.

Minute 364 The Workman has been sent a letter confirming the higher rate of mileage currently claimed, will be till the end of March 2023.

Minute 365 A smart meter has now been installed in the Pavilion. The Council need to establish how long an electric token lasts. The Committee to then review again.

Minute 368 The Clerk has invited the Head of Bere Alston Primary School to attend the Council meeting on Tuesday 31st January 2023.

427. To accept the January 2023 accounts for payment

Cllr. Leithall proposed acceptance of the accounts for payment for January, seconded by Cllr. Lamb.

428. To accept the F & G.P Detailed Receipt and Payment Report ending 31st December 2022

After discussion it was agreed to add to the Committee's next agenda the proposal from the National Joint Council for Local Government Services, of an additional one-day holiday for staff and also staff's bank holiday entitlements.

Cllr. Dennis proposed acceptance of the report, seconded by Cllr. Crozier.

429. To accept the reconciled bank statement ending 31st December 2022

Cllr. Leithall proposed acceptance of the reconciled bank statement, seconded by Cllr. Dennis.

430. Review and approve 2023-34 Budget

It was agreed to leave in the cost for the annual maintenance of the Parish Hall Clock, but requested the Clerk obtain more details on the exact work that will be undertaken.

The quotes received to install motion sensor lights, around the Parish Hall will be discussed at the next meeting.

Cllr. Lamb proposed contacting the Council's insurance company to see what cover the Council would have for cover any Coronation parties/events that may be organized and proposed budgeting £150 to cover any additional insurance costs that may be required to cover these events. Seconded by Cllr. Leithall.

After the whole budget was reviewed, Cllr. Leithall proposed the budget for 2023-24 be set at £77,371 , seconded by Cllr. Dennis. All were in favour. Final approval of the budget to be given at the Council meeting on 31st January 2023.

431. Recommend 2023-24 Precept

Cllr. Leithall proposed recommendation the Council's precept be set at £77,371. Seconded by Cllr. Pengelly. Final approval to be given at the Council meeting on 31st January 2023.

432. Approve a donation to the Platinum Jubilee Committee

Further information is still required by the Committee, it was therefore agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

433. Discuss contract for the ongoing maintenance of the council Office lift

After discussing the contract options provided, Cllr. Leithall proposed the Council take out a five-year, twelve-month rolling maintenance contract, with includes one service visit per annum, with The Ideal Lift Service Limited. Seconded by Cllr. Maycock.

434. Bere Alston Regeneration Partnership agreement

Cllr. Lamb proposed a meeting be scheduled between some members of the Council and the Trustees of Beregen, to review the current agreement. Seconded by Cllr. Pengelly. All in favour.

435. Business rate repayment

The Clerk confirmed that the Council have received from West Devon Borough Council, business rates rebate from 2021-22. Cllr. Lamb proposed that this rebate be used towards payment for the equipment repairs required at Sarah Park. Seconded by Cllr. Maycock.

436. Approve payment for safety issue and equipment repair in Sarah Park

After reviewing the quotes received, the Committee agreed to support the recommendation from the Open Spaces Committee and accept the quote received from Outdoor Play to undertake the necessary equipment repairs at Sarah Park.

437. Review and approve Grant Award Policy

The policy had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting.

Cllr. Lamb proposed approval of the policy, seconded by Cllr. Dennis.

438. Review and approve Reserve Policy

After discussion it was agreed to revise certain parts of the policy and discuss again at the next meeting.

439. Review and approve Debit Card Policy

After discussions and subject to the proposed amendments, Cllr. Leithall proposed approval of the policy, seconded by Cllr. Dennis.

440. Correspondence

1. Expenses claim form from Cllr. P. Dennis for £6 - Land Registry Property Searches fees.

Cllr. Leithall proposed acceptance of payment, seconded by Cllr. Maycock.

441. Agenda items for the next meeting

1. HR Matters – proposed additional 1 day holiday and bank holiday entitlements.
2. Purchase of Grit bin for The Down.
3. Installing motorcycle spaces in the Parish Hall car park.
4. Parish Hall carpark – issues of parking in front of emergency exits.
5. Removing of soil in the dog field to extend the road in the Bere Alston allotments.
6. Review of Financial Regulations for 2023-24.
7. Quotes on installing sensor motion lights around the Parish Hall.
8. Revised Reserve Policy.
9. Review and approve Risk Management Scheme for 2023-24.

442. Questions from the public, at the discretion of the Chair

No members of the public were present at the meeting.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked members for attending the meeting and declared the meeting closed at 9.29 pm.

Signed by the Chair

Dated 31st January 2023