

ASHINGDON PARISH COUNCIL



Clerk to the Council:

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Minutes of the Parish Council budget meeting held on Monday 28th November 2022 at Ashingdon Church Hall, Church Road, Ashingdon at 7.30pm.

Present: Chairman: Cllr. D. Catchpole Vice Chairman: Cllr. D. Constable
Councillors: Cllr. S. Chittenden Cllr. D. McCarthy
Cllr. S. Osborne Cllr. G. Dryhurst
Officers: Karen Boyce, Parish Clerk
Members of press and public: None

22/187 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr. P. Hennessy and Cllr. T. Flowers.

No apologies were received from Cllr. D. Lynn.

22/188 Declaration of Interests and Dispensations

None.

22/189 Public participation session

None present.

22/190 Member Allowances

Members discussed whether allowances would be claimed during 2023/24. Cllrs. D. Catchpole, D. Constable, D. McCarthy, P. Hennessy, S. Osborne and . G. Dryhurst intended to claim allowances.

Cllr. D. Lynn, unfortunately was not in attendance to clarify if he will be claiming.

RESOLVED that six members allowances of £350.00 be budgeted for during 2023/24.

22/191 Training

Members considered the budget for training. It was suggested that the Clerk attend the Election Briefing Course. Cllr. D. Catchpole requested to attend the Budget and Precept course. Cllr. D. McCarthy requested to attend the Risk Assessment Level 2 Course. It was suggested that Cllr. D. Lynn attend the Councillor Training Days. The Clerk informed members that the prices had not been set by EALC at time of meeting and that the courses could be rising by £5-£10.

RESOLVED that a sum of £1,300.00 be put into the budget for 2023/24, as previous years.

22/192 Upgrade Parish Street Lights

It was considered to upgrade the remaining 49 parish street lights to LED, in view of the rising energy costs.

RESOLVED that the remaining 49 parish street lights will be upgraded to LED lights, the cost of these lights will be coming out of General Reserves.

Budget and precept for 2023/24

Members reviewed and amended the budget report for 2023/24. The budget for Litter Picker Operative had been increased as the Council are employing a new Litter Picker. A new budget heading was agreed on as the Council have agreed to employ an Admin Assistant. The budget for Members allowance had been increased as a possible 7 members will be claiming their allowance. The Street light supply had been increased substantially as the price of electricity has risen. The budget for postage had been reduced and so had the subscriptions budget. The Clerk was asked to cancel the Zoom subscription. The budget for Dog Bins had been reduced, as the Council have a new company emptying the dog bin. The street light replacement had been reduced, the Council are going to be replacing 49 street lights to LED lights, so there should not have to be so many replaced, once the majority have been upgraded. The Play area depreciation has been reduced for this year to keep the precept figures down. The budget for Youth Worker/Bus, Defibrillator had been reduced and the Council decided to use money from the General Reserves for these items. The budget for Grants and Donations has also been reduced for this year. The Clerk advised the Council to use some of their General Reserves.

RESOLVED that

- (a) the following budget headings be added to the budget:

- Admin Assistant - £ 5,830

a budget of £134,291 is required for 2023/24. The precept figure for 2023/24 would be confirmed at the Parish Council meeting on 9th January 2023.

22/194

Reserves

Members reviewed the general and earmarked reserves.

RESOLVED that the following be allocated funding from the reserves to make the earmarked reserves for 2023/24:

Office & IT Equipment	£1,200
External Audit	£500
Elections	£3,500
Asset Maintenance	£1,863.68
Gate Locking	£3,945
Street light supply	£2,140
Street Light replacement	£6,000
Concrete Skate Park	£2,500
Allotments	£1,250
Parish Rooms	£14,000
Toilets	£39,209
Speed Awareness Measures	£650
Play Area Depreciation	£25,000
School Holiday Activities	£15,000
Memorials	£170.84
Youth Worker/Bus	£3,700
King's Coronation	£3,751
Muga	£20,000

345 – EMR Queen's Jubilee Celebrations, change budget heading to King's Coronation

339 – EMR Memorials, deduct the cost of the memorial tree, at a cost of £29.16 ex VAT, leaving new balance of £170.84.

331 – EMR Litter Bins and 338 - EMR Wooden Bollards, these are to be amalgamated with 323 – Asset Maintenance, totalling a new balance of £1,863.68

4350 – Youth Worker/Bus – Transfer £1,500 to EMR

4311– Play Area Depreciation – Transfer £5,000 to EMR

4309 – MUGA - Transfer £10,000 to EMR

4320 – Toilets – Transfer £3,500 to EMR

4311 – Play Area Depreciation – Transfer £5,000 to EMR

4360 – Health and Wellbeing – To add a new EMR heading for Health and Wellbeing, Transfer £9,000 to EMR

22/195 Exclusion of Press and Public

The Parish Council will resolve to exclude the press and public from the remainder of the meeting due to confidential business under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, s.1 (2)

22/196 Staff Matters

Members considered a report from the Clerk, regarding employing an Admin Assistant

RESOLVED that the Council decided to employ an Admin Assistant for 10 hours a week.

22/197 Date of next meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting is on Monday 5th December 2022 at 7.30pm.

The meeting was closed at 10:00pm

Chairman's Signature

Dated
5th December 2022