



# Wadebridge Town Council

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## Minutes of Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on Monday 15 January 2024 at 7pm in the Victoria Room, Wadebridge Town Hall

**Present:** Cllrs; C Boswell-Munday, H Jarvis (Chair), L Nathan (Vice Chair), J Metcalfe, L Mitchell, K Rowe & C Viqueira.  
**Absent:** Cllrs; T Leach, P Mitchell, I Welch.  
**In Attendance:** Anne Minnis (Town Clerk), Julie Raynes (Finance Officer)  
**Public Present:** Four Member of the Public.

- Fin 309/24**      **To receive and approve apologies for absence –**
- It was **RESOLVED** to accept apologies from Cllr T Leach due to a work commitment.
  - It was **RESOLVED** to accept apologies from Cllr I Welch due to family commitment.
- Fin 310/24**      **To receive Declarations of Interest.**
- a) **Pecuniary Interests** - None
  - b) **Non-Registerable Interests** – Cllr L Mitchell. Agenda Item 9.1
  - c) **Dispensations** – None.
- Fin 311/24**      **Minutes of last meeting** – The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 December 2023 were **RESOLVED** to be a true record subject to amendment to Fin 302/23.
- Fin 312/24**      **Public Participation** – Two members of the public addressed the committee on Agenda Items 6.i. & 6.ii. respectively.
- Fin 313/24**      **Finance**
- a) **Budget monitoring figures to 31 December 2023**  
The figures were reviewed, and members **RESOLVED** to accept the budget monitoring figures as presented.
  - b) **Bank Reconciliation to 31 December 2023**  
The figures were reviewed, and members **RESOLVED** to accept the bank reconciliation figures as presented.
- Fin 314/24**      **Grant Applications –**
- **Wadebridge Festival of Music & Speech** – It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant of £500 under Section S145
  - **Wadebridge School Musical Theatre Club** – It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant of £500 under Section S145

**Fin 315/24**

**Parking Charges Review** – Members **RESOLVED to RECOMMEND to Full Council** to increase Parking Charges in the Co-op, Library & Egloshayle Car Parks as follows:-  
1 Hour - £0.90 (all)  
2 Hours - £1.80 (all)  
3 Hours - £2.70 (all)  
4 Hours - £3.60 (Co-op & Library only)  
Up to 4 hours - £3.60 (Egloshayle only)  
4 Hours & over - £5.00 (Egloshayle only)  
Charging periods to remain the same.

Parking charges were last increased in Town Council car parks in 2009. Members **agreed** to review Parking Charges on a yearly basis.

**Fin 316/24****Precept 2024/25 –**

- The Town Council's estimated overall revenue budget (excluding reserves) has increased by approx. £91.3K for 2024/25.
- Proposed specific reserves have reduced by £64.9K
- Dependent on the Precept recommended general reserves are likely to fall or remain static for the year to compensate for the increase in revenue budget. It is not recommended that a projected reserve position of less than £255K is considered for the Precept for this year.
- The Council will need to prioritise for the year ahead and not commit to any additional events which may impact on the budget and general reserve position.
- The current review of Car Park Charges should bring additional revenue in 2024/25 which is uncertain and has not been included in the Precept exercise.
- Town Hall reserves have been reduced, funding required for the Town Hall is not immediate and may be able to be supported by external funding in part when the project is able to progress.
- The Library budget remains static. The budget of £118K is solely met by Wadebridge parishioners to deliver the library service in Wadebridge which was devolved from Cornwall Council in 2018.
- Council Tax Referendum – It has been confirmed that the Town Council will not be subject to Council Tax referendum principles this year, which is applicable to major authorities, whereby any increase of 2% or above on the Band D charge is subject to a referendum.
- Council Tax Base – 2023/24 Band D equivalent figure was 2,514.08. For 2024/25 this figure has increased by 14 (0.6%) to 2,528.
- It is recommended within the Local Government Finance Act 1992, Section 32, 43 & 50 that a contingency of 3-12 months of general reserves be held. A minimum level of reserves for 2024/25 is recommended at £255K which equates to 3 months expenditure and is within the guidelines.
- It was **RESOLVED to RECOMMEND to FULL COUNCIL** to accept a precept figure of £685,245 with a Budget of £1,006,293 (including reserves) for 2024/25.
- Members noted that this will have a corresponding 7.90% increase on a Band D property of £19.85 per year or 0.38p per week.

**Fin 317/24**

**Confidential matters:** *It was **RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Order 1.c., so that the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business because of the confidential personnel nature of the business to be transacted - Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.*

**8.23pm** Cllr L Mitchell left the room.

- Allotments** – Members received an update regarding the present position of the Small Claims cases.

**8.27pm** Cllr L Mitchell returned to the room.

- ii. **Valuation Report** – Members reviewed the Valuation Report on the Cricket Club and noted the recommended price increase.

*It was **RESOLVED** to re-instate Standing Order 1.c.*

**Fin 318/24**

**Dates of next meetings**

- **Full Council** – Wednesday 17 January 2024
- **Finance & General Purposes Committee** – Monday 19 February 2024
- **Full Council** – Wednesday 21 February 2024

Meeting closed at 8.32pm.

**Signed as a True and Accurate Account:**

**Chair:** ..... **Date:** .....