



# Wadebridge Town Council

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## Minutes of Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on Friday 13 January 2023 at 9.30 a.m. in the Victoria Room, Wadebridge Town Hall

**Present:** Cllrs; H Brown, H Jarvis, T Leach, L Nathan, K Rowe, C Viqueira & I Welch.

**Absent:** None

**In Attendance:** Anne Minnis (Town Clerk), Julie Raynes (Finance Officer)

**Public Present:** None

- Fin 276/23**      **To appoint a Chairman for 2022/23** – It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Linsey Nathan as Chair of the Finance & General Purposes Committee.
- Fin 277/23**      **To appoint a Vice Chairman for 2022/23** - It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Henry Jarvis as Vice Chair of the Finance & General Purposes Committee.
- Fin 278/23**      **To receive and approve apologies for absence** – None.
- Fin 279/23**      **To receive Declarations of Interest.**
- a) **Pecuniary Interests** - None  
                    b) **Non-Registerable Interests** – None  
                    c) **Dispensations** – None.
- Fin 280/23**      **Minutes of last meeting**– The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2021 were **RESOLVED** to be a true record.
- Fin 281/23**      **Public Participation** – None
- Fin 282/23**      **Grant Applications** –
- **Pentreath – Wadebridge Wellness Hub** – It was **RESOLVED** to award a Grant of £100 under section S137 - LGA1972
- Fin 283/23**      **Finance**
- a) **Budget monitoring figures to 30 November 2022**  
The figures were reviewed, and members **RESOLVED** to accept the budget monitoring figures as presented.
- b) **Bank Reconciliation to 30 November 2022**  
The figures were reviewed, and members **RESOLVED** to accept the bank reconciliation figures as presented.
- c) Members received & noted the External Audit Report for the year ended 2021/22.
- d) Members received & noted the Internal Audit Report for the year ended 2021/22.
- e) Members **RESOLVED** to accept the Interim Internal Audit Report for the year ended 31 March 2023.

f) **Councillor Review of Internal Controls**

Members **RESOLVED** to nominate Cllrs H Jarvis & L Nathan to carry out the reviews. Review to be completed by 31 March 2023.

**Fin 284/23**

**Precept 2023/24** – Members viewed the Draft Budget as presented.

- The Town Council's estimated overall revenue budget (excluding reserves) has increased by approx. £81.2K for 2023/24.
- Proposed specific reserves have reduced by £60.5K
- Dependent on the Precept recommended general reserves are likely to fall for the year to compensate for the increase in revenue budget. It is not recommended that a projected reserve position of less than £250K 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.
- A review of Car Park Charges is long overdue and should be considered in 2023/24.
- The £25K held in long term investments should be realised for the Platt Toilet renovations project.
- Town Hall reserves have been reallocated to the Toilet renovation project – 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.
- 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 – 2022/23 Band D equivalent figure was 2,453.23. For 2023/24 this figure has increased by 60.85 (2.48%) to 2,514.08.
- CTSG – 2022/23 was the final year that Cornwall Council will pay the CTS grant and for 2023/24 there is no further funding provided.
- 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 2023/24 is recommended at £259K which equates to 3.23 months expenditure and is within the guidelines.
- It was **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND to FULL COUNCIL** to accept a precept figure of £631,562 for 2023/24.
- Members noted that this will have a corresponding 8.31% increase on a Band D property of £19.28 per year or 37p per week – a below inflationary increase.

**Fin 285/23**

**Confidential matters - to consider the following resolution:** *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.*

- **Sports Clubs Leases** – The Clerk updated the Committee with the current position regarding all tenant leases.
- *It was **RESOLVED** to re-instate Standing Order 1.c.*

**Fin 286/23**

**Dates of next meetings**

- **Full Council – Wednesday 18 January 2023, 7pm**

Meeting closed at 10.55 a.m.

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

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