



WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the **Extraordinary Meeting of Willand Parish Council** held on **Thursday 7th December 2023 at 7.00 pm, in the Club Room at Willand Village Hall, Gables Rd, Willand.**

Present: Cllr Warren, Cllr Phare, Cllr Grantham, Cllr James, Cllr Hughes, Cllr Little

In Attendance: D Bird, Parish Clerk

Minutes

0712/01 To receive and accept apologies

It was **resolved** to receive and accept apologies from Cllr Scott, Cllr Leach, Cllr Jones and Cllr Glover and the reasons for absence were approved unanimously.

The Chair advised that Cllr Sellick had resigned as Councillor just prior to the meeting.

0712/02 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations.

0712/03 Public Question Time

There were no Members of the Public present.

0712/04 To consider and agree the Precept for 2024/25 to be finalised and formally approved at Full Council on the 11th January 2024.

- i. An excel workbook was sent to Councillors prior to meeting with indicative figures for consideration. These were reviewed line by line.
- ii. It was **resolved** to agree the indicative figures as proposed in the excel workbook for formal approval at Council on the 11th January 2024, subject to the following amendments:
 - Cemetery Expenditure: Cemetery Extension grass cuts to be included in Cemetery Expenditure from 2024/25 rather than the Cemetery Extension earmarked reserve, as this is an ongoing maintenance cost that should be part of the general revenue budget. This will increase the Cemetery Expenditure cost by £2,000 to £7,592, based on 10 cuts per annum.
 - Village Projects, Christmas Lights Electricity: It was agreed to increase the Christmas lights electricity budget to £500 from £300, increasing the Village

Projects overall expenditure budget to £9,315 (this will cover the additional length of time the lights are on and the decision not to replace faulty timers)

- iii. Councillors agreed with the suggested Cemetery income budget for 2024/25 and have asked the Clerk to compare Cemetery fees again in the New Year with other local parishes to consider whether an increase in fees should be considered next year.
- iv. The Clerk to contact Devon County Council to confirm the continuation of the Urban Grounds Maintenance Programme and obtain an indication of the amount that will be paid.
- v. The Clerk to investigate the cost of using a private contractor for play area inspections next year, including the annual RoSPA inspections, for consideration in future years. It was acknowledged that the Parish currently receives a reasonable, discounted rate from Mid-Devon for this work due to the number of play areas being inspected in a geographically tight area.
- vi. Councillors felt that the Village Project Expenditure cost code should be renamed to something more appropriate. The Clerk and Councillors to consider an alternative title.

0712/05

To consider and agree the allocation of funds to the Operational Reserve to bring the balance up to half the agreed Precept for 2024/25.

- i. A Spreadsheet was sent to Councillors prior to meeting for consideration.
- ii. It was **resolved** that the predicted underspend for 2023/24 be used to top up the Operational Reserve balance to half the annual precept, for formal approval at the 11th January 2024 Council.
- iii. The Clerk also advised that she has started work on the 3-year Capital Programme for Play Areas as agreed at November Council, using data from the Asset Register and latest RoSPA reports to identify items that will need replacing over next 3 financial years, and is now proceeding to cost out. A proposed programme will be brought to Council to consider in February 2024.

0712/06

Close 19.56 p.m.