

Minutes of the Finance and Services Committee Meeting

**held THE BEECHES COMMUNITY CENTRE, Birch Court, Tuxford on Thursday
05 December 2024, commencing 4:30pm**

PRESENT: Cllrs G Frost (Chair), M Richards, K Rutherford (from 4:50pm) and R Walker

IN ATTENDANCE: Clerk/RFO was not in attendance. There was one member of the public present. Note taker was Cllr GF

FS036 Inform Members and the public that the meeting was being recorded.

FS037 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr J Moorhouse.

RESOLVED: Reasons for apologies were given and accepted.

No apologies were received from Cllr E Atkin

Cllr E Whitley resigned on 02 December 2024

FS038 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

FS039 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 03 October 2024 (folio reference: 2024/103-105)

RESOLVED: Proposed by Cllr MR, seconded by Cllr GF that the minutes of the meeting held above, having been circulated prior to the meeting, were taken as read, approved, and signed by the chairman as an accurate record.

FS040 Finance

All following paperwork was sent electronically to all members prior to the meeting and paper copies were given to the Chair to authorise in the presence of members and any public present.

a) To approve invoices for payment (d)

Payments on the report attached at Appendix (d) were approved and signed.

Bank Transfers totaling: £323.07

Direct Debits totaling: £908.09

Debit Card payments totaling: £485.39

Cheque payments totaling: £0.00.

Income received totaling: - **£100.00**

RESOLVED: Cllr GF advised she had checked through the above and agreed with the totals. Proposed by Cllr RW seconded by Cllr MR, all in favour.

2025.26 Precept – 2nd Draft

Clerk had previously prepared the 1st draft and report to help councillors understand what to consider when setting a precept. The paperwork was sent electronically to all members prior to the meeting is now the 2nd draft.

The proposal for consideration at the 2nd draft was for either a 3%, 5% or 7% increase on the current 2024.25 precept.

It was agreed at the October meeting that Cllr MR, in consultation with Cllr SR will create a machinery and vehicle procurement plan, to bring back to the Finance and Services Committee meeting for consideration when setting the precept – this hasn't been undertaken to date.

A previous action asked by Cllr RW was for the clerk/RFO to check how much the precept can be increased before a referendum would be required – it was confirmed that bottom tier councils, which the town council is classed, can set their precept at whatever they deem necessary. A referendum is only required at higher level tiers.

RESOLVED: Proposed by Cllr KR seconded by Cllr GF, all in favour to increase the precept by 7%.

ACTION: Recommendation of an increase in the 2025.26 precept to be 7% to be presented to Full Council for approval on 23 January 2025.

FS041 Grounds Maintenance – Items for renewal

- Tractor (availability of parts)

Cllr GF updated members on the current position of aged tractor and the lack of parts.

ACTION: There appears to be some miscommunication regarding what the request was so this item will be moved to a future agenda.

- Air Compressor (last purchased July 2018)

The air compressor is broken. The clerk/RFO had provided quotes on different air compressors. It is currently used to pump up the vehicle and machinery tyres and clean down the equipment after use.

RESOLVED: Proposed by Cllr MR, seconded by Cllr GF, all in favour of purchasing the smaller air compressor for £247.00 plus VAT

- Jigsaw

The grounds maintenance team have asked for a jigsaw as they've never had one and have been using their own creating memorabilia and signs for the town centre.

RESOLVED: Proposed by Cllr GF, seconded by Cllr MR, all in favour of purchasing a Dewalt 'bare' jigsaw for £119.99

FS042 To receive items for information and future agenda items.

The member of the public that was present was informed about the allotment rent proposal for 2025.26 and that the council are liaising with the insurance company regarding the water leak.

FS043 Date of Next Meeting: 02 January 2025

The Chairman thanked Councillors for their contributions to the meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 5:15pm.

CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE.....

DATE.....