

Chairman: Mrs Louise Myles
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**Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting, 22nd October 2022 at the
Bettersworth Room, St Lukes, Linch**

Present: L Myles, M Truss, A Farley, V Williams (Clerk)

1. Apologies: J Parker
2. Minutes of Meeting: 10th November 2021 **APPROVED**
3. Declarations of Interest: None
4. Recreation Ground:
 - a. Maintenance: £5,000
 - b. Repairs and Administration: £500**Total: £5,500**
5. Clerk's payment:

SCP 25 – 14hrs/week @52 weeks
Increase of 6% (Estimated as currently undecided by Government) = ~ £700pa
£12,069

Once the Clerk completes the CiLCA training her pay grade will increase. This will not be until October 2023 £1000 was added as a contingency for this.
Precept: £13,000

Consumables £700pa = £13.46pw
Expenses – based on previous expenditure this was reduced to £150pa - £2.88pw
(Post,Photo,Stat,Ptrl)
Clerk's Office to remain the same: £58.33 / week.
Total £700

Expenses – based on previous expenditure this was reduced to £150pa - £2.88pw
(Post,Photo,Stat,Ptrl)
Total: £150
6. Employer's National Insurance:

Employers NIC on salaries above £8,840 at 15.05%
£12,069-£8,840 = £3,229*15.05% = £486
Total: £486
7. Clerk's Pension:

Pension Contribution to remain at 6%.
The contributions are calculated based on qualifying earnings. Earnings between £520 and £4,167.

Finance Committee Minutes – October 2022

Calculation:

£1,005 / month

£1,005*6% = £60,35 / month (£724.15 / year)

Total: £750

8. Environment & Amenity

a. General maintenance: £1,750

b. Tree surgery: £2,000

Total: £3,750

9. Donations:

After discussion it was decided to reduce the money given to charity and to only support charities which focused directly on the local area. This will be reviewed annually to allow other local charities to be considered in the future.

a. Air Ambulance: £100

Total: £100

10. Subscriptions:

a. Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC): £110

b. West Sussex Association of Local Councils (WSALC): £299

c. Action in Rural Sussex (AirS): £60

d. Open Spaces Society (OSS): £45

Total: £514

11. Insurance: As the PC is in the final year of the 3 year long term undertaking and due to an increase in insurance costs this year, this has been increased to reflect the predicted increase for 2023.
£750

12. Milland Stores: **£4,682** – (2021 Public Works Loan DD May and November x 2)

13. Churchyards:

It was **AGREED** to maintain the contribution to each site (Linch, Milland & Iping Marsh) £200.

Total: £600

14. Reserve Funds:

Following the recommendation by the internal Auditors that the PC should continue to increase its reserves (approximately 50% of precept), the committee discussed the importance of not increasing the precept more than necessary and building up this fund:

Total: £1,000

15. Funding requests: The PC wishes the main target of any financial support it gives to be towards the creation of long-term infrastructure, rather than funding administration or other running costs:

Response to funding requests from local groups:

Borden Village Hall – No request

Milland Valley Memorial Hall

Request for contribution towards two projects – oil tank enclosure and roof survey / repairs. The request was discussed but it was decided that in view of the size of the reserve held by the hall it could not support the application. It was decided that whilst the hall holds such reserves they would no longer be invited to apply for a grant. Should the financial situation of the hall change in the future, the trustees can of course contact the PC for support.

Wildflower Group

The increase in flora and fauna on the Green this year has been very evident and it is an important area in the centre of the village for residents and visitors, adults and children alike. The wildflowers are now self-perpetuating and making swaths of colour that change as the seasons pass and is providing an important corridor for insects and wildlife. Work is planned on the areas in front of the bus shelter and by the crossroads to reduce the rank grass and introduce more wildflowers.

SDNPA funding is being reduced generally in the organisation and they may no longer pay for the essential cut and collect, therefore this may need to be funded by the wildflower group.

Following a discussion, the committee decided that as it is not known for sure whether SDNPA will continue to carry out the cut and collect, it was not in a position at this time to cover the cost. It was therefore decided to award £200 for all the other proposed work with the understanding that should SDNPA cease to carry out the mowing, the group are at liberty to apply for the funds required from the PC at that time.

Agreed - £200

Christmas lights for the trees on Cartersland

This is the fourth year of the project to light up the centre of the village with Christmas Lights. The intention this year is to replenish old lights and decorate a further small tree on the green. The project continues to be maintained by volunteers who are residents local to Cartersland, including a team who charge the solar lights for the period of a month through the Christmas period. The project included a wonderful ‘turning on’ evening, which was extremely well supported by the residents of the village.

Following a discussion, it was decided that the PC would support the replacement of existing lights but did not feel it necessary to fund further ones.

Agreed - £80

Total: £280

Chairman:

Date:.....

These Minutes are unconfirmed until signed by the Chairman