
Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on Monday 27th January 2025 at the Cleobury Country Centre, Cleobury Mortimer commencing at 6.30pm.

Present:

Cllr Geoff Hainsworth, Cllr Guy James and Cllr David Abbatiello.
Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer: Mrs D McBride.

Chair, Cllr Hainsworth welcomed everyone to the January Finance Committee meeting.

01.01.25F Apologies for absence.

There were no apologies.

01.02.25F Declaration of interests.

There were no declarations of interest.

01.03.25F Public Participation Session.

There were no members of public present.

01.04.25F Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on Monday 25th November 2024.

The Minutes from the Finance Committee meeting held on Monday 25th November 2024, were approved and duly signed by the Chair.

01.05.25F 2024-25 Accounts year-to-date.

1. The Receipts and Payments account figures were reviewed against budget and the year-end forecast figures. The main variances against budget are due to tree work carried out in 2024. DM reported on the latest issues with Lloyds Bank who have changed the terms and conditions of banking services which resulted in some recent payments not clearing despite funds being available. Due to these issues and new banking fees for processing cheques, the Finance Committee approved the option for making payments online wherever possible including a transfer of £45,000 to the Unity Account. Additionally, the Precept will be paid into the Unity Account in April. The Finance Committee approved the Receipts and Payments as presented and this was duly signed by the Chair.
2. The Bank Reconciliation was reviewed as being correct and duly signed by the Chair.
3. The Petty Cash Account was reviewed as being correct and duly signed by the Chair.
4. The Earmarked Reserves were reviewed and duly signed by the Chair. The proposed Wells refurbishment project was discussed. The Finance Committee approved the installation of new water and electricity supplies to facilitate the improvements. It was noted that the bier, previously stored in the Cemetery, has been fully renovated by Cleobury Men's Shed and is now on display in St Mary's Church.

01.06.25F Draft Budget for 2025-26.

The draft budget was reviewed, having been updated with grass-cutting contract figures as well as the latest forecast for the current year. The Finance Committee approved the draft budget with a precept of £195,000. This budget will be recommended to Council for approval at its February 2025 meeting.

01.07.25F Date of the next Finance Committee meeting.

The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on Monday 24th March 2025 at 7.30pm at the Cleobury Country Centre, Cleobury Mortimer.

Meeting closed at 7.40pm.

Signed Chairman: G Hainsworth

Date: 24th March 2025