



**Minutes of a Meeting of the Finance Committee held in
Committee Room, Alderholt Village Hall at 6.00pm on
Thursday 7th December 2023**

Present: Cllr S Butler (Chairman), Cllr A Hibberd, Cllr G Logan

In attendance: Mrs N Ashton (Clerk)

9/23	Welcome from the Chairman: The Chairman, Cllr S Butler, welcomed all in attendance to the meeting of the Finance Committee.	
10/23	To Receive and Accept Apologies Apologies were received from Cllrs Emberson and Tooke. Members RESOLVED to accept their apologies.	
11/23	To Receive Declarations of Interest and/or Consider the Granting of Dispensations: There were no declarations of interest or granting of dispensations.	
12/23	To approve the Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 26th June 2023. Members RESOLVED to approve the minutes as a correct record.	
13/23	Public Session: No public present.	
14/23	To Consider any Grant Applications Received: No applications received. The Clerk informed Members of an enquiry received regarding a grant but believed the application would not meet eligibility requirements. Members confirmed the proposed application would not comply with eligibility requirements.	
15/23	To Review the Purchase of a New Laptop as Agreed at the June Meeting (min ref:7/23): It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.	
16/23	To Approve the General Reserves Policy for Submission to Full Council: Members RESOLVED to approve the Policy for submission to Full Council at the January meeting.	NA



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17/23	<p>Budget 2024/2025</p> <p>i. To review current expenditure against budget and forecast of expenditure to end of financial year: The Clerk presented the figures showing current expenditure to 30th November and estimated expenditure to year end.</p> <p>ii. To consider and agree the budget and precept requirement for 2024/2025 for submission to Full Council:</p> <p>The Clerk informed Members the council tax base figure for 2024/25 had not yet been received from Dorset Council, although this was expected to be confirmed before the meeting of the Full Council on 11th December. Members RESOLVED in principle to agree the budget of £104,485 (with amendments to budget lines for travelling expenses and Green Spaces Group) and approved a precept requirement of £96435 meaning the annual charge for Band D will be £76.20 which represents an increase of £0.20 for the year. These figures are based on the council tax base figure for 2023/24 and may change when the new council tax base figure is made available.</p> <p>iii. To review the Risk Assessment as part of the budget discussions:</p> <p>No issues were identified which could impact budget requirements.</p> <p>iv. To review the earmarked reserves and agree any allocations for 2024/2025:</p> <p>Members RESOLVED to earmark reserves in principle for Community Transport, Big Alderholt Fete, Election Costs, Play Equipment, and the Neighbourhood Plan. Earmarked reserves will be reviewed again in March prior to the end of the financial year.</p>	
18/23	<p>To Review the following:</p> <p>i. Risk Management</p> <p>Further to the previous review a Health and Safety Policy has now been adopted. Research into a Winter Maintenance Policy has not taken place due to change of staffing. The Clerk will review the suggestion of the policy and the Risk Management document will be reviewed by Full Council prior to the end of the financial year.</p> <p>ii. Internal Financial Controls</p> <p>The External Audit for 2022/2023 did not identify any issues nor did the internal audit which took place in October. It was agreed no changes were required to the Internal Controls document.</p>	NA

With no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.30pm.