



DITCHLING PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Ditchling Parish Council Finance Committee Meeting held at the Parish Office, Ditchling Village Hall, Ditchling on Tuesday 12th November 2024 at 2.30pm

Present: Cllrs Farrands, Madden and Orme (Chair)

Tracey Euesden (Clerk)

Public Participation:

No members of the public were present.

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| 1. | Apologies for absence. Apologies were received accepted from Cllr Ingham |
| 2.. | Declarations of interest. There were no declarations of interest. |
| 3. | To Approve the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 13th November 2023. The Minutes were APPROVED and signed by the Chair. |
| 4. | To Consider Interim Internal Audit Report and Recommendations. The report had been distributed and contents noted. It was noted that Cllr Orme had been added as a signatory to the Co-Op Bank Account and it was AGREED that a recommendation would be made to the Full Council that dual control online banking be set up. The Clerk had obtained a template Internal Review form and would be considering if use of this form would be an additional benefit to the council. |
| 5. | To Note NALC Advice Note – Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2024-2025. The Agreement and requirement for the pay increase to be backdated to 1 st April was NOTED . |
| 6. | To Review Earmarked Reserves and Priority Projects as contained in Business Plan 2024-2027. The Clerk had distributed the Earmarked Reserves report and was asked to itemise the CIL receipts into dates by which they must be spent in time for the Full Council meeting. The consensus was that the Playground Refurbishment Project and Traffic Calming Measures should be prioritised in the next financial year and in light of the disappointing outcome of applications to LDC and SDNP for CIL, other funding sources need to be explored. |
| 7. | To Consider Precept and Draft Budget 2025/2026 for recommendation to Full Council. The Draft budget was discussed and subject to some minor amendments, this would be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL to Full Council with an increase of 9% on the Precept for 2025 2026. Equating to an increase of approximately £9.12 per band D household per annum. |
| 8. | To Review Asset List. The Fixed Asset List was reviewed and the Interpretation Board recently installed at the Car Park on Keymer Road was added. There are no disposals at this point but it was noted that the office photocopier is to be replaced with a leased machine shortly. |

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| 9. | To Review Savings Accounts. With the recent transfer of funds to Redwood Bank, balances with Unity and Redwood are within the £85,000 protection offered under the FSCS. It was noted that balances with Co-Op exceed this threshold but this is due to the second installment of Precept being received in September with a further 5 months of expenditure to be made. |
| 10. | Next meeting date. To be advised. |

The meeting closed at 3.20 pm