



Beaminster Town Council

## FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held in the Cowie Room, Public Hall on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

**756 PRESENT:** Cllr Woods (Chairman), Cllr Corbett, Cllr Dawkin, Cllr Gillings, Cllr Gunning, Cllr Turner and Cllr Watts: also Christine Bright (Town Clerk)

**757 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Anderton and Cllr Tuff.

**758 MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 22<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER 2024**

The minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2024 having been circulated were confirmed a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**759 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATION**

No declarations of interest were received. The Town Clerk confirmed a dispensation had been awarded to Cllr Anderton and Cllr Watts to participate in discussion in respect of matters pertaining to the consideration of the precept for 2025/2026.

**760 PAYMENTS & RECIEPTS**

Members were tabled with details of the payments made for the month of December 2024 including cheque numbers 106016 to 106023 direct debits and bank payments; also cheque number 100056 in the sum of £198 from the CB3 account totalling £34,979.14 together with receipts received in the sum of £7,757.58 a copy of which are attached. Members **RESOLVED** adoption and payment as presented.

Concern was expressed with regard to the cost of the domain name renewal, the Town Clerk to clarify at the next meeting.

Cllr Dawkins, on behalf of the CB3 volunteers expressed his gratitude to the Council for the Christmas meal enjoyed by past and present volunteers, this year had been the first opportunity in six years that an official 'thank you' had been financially possible.

**761 BUDGET PROJECTIONS 2024/2025**

Members had previously been circulated with a copy of the budget projections to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. The Chairman took members through the figures page by page and sought questions or comments.

As members moved through the figures the Town Clerk clarified that:

- Final invoices in respect of Christmas lighting were expected in January that would provide a clearer picture as to the cost of the 2024 displays.

- A sum had been included to upgrade the CCTV cameras at the rear of the Public Hall, the quotations received were to be discussed.
- A sum had been included in the contract cleaning costs for public toilets pending the addition of a public toilet in the Memorial Playing Field
- A sum had been included to upgrade the CCTV system in the Memorial Playing Field, the quotations received were to be discussed.
- A sum had been included to repair the path from the rear of the pavilion to the access gate (Footpath 69)
- A sum had been included to meet the funding shortfall in respect of the controlled access to the Memorial Playing Field
- A budget saving in the region of £3,500 on the cemetery extension budget
- A sum had been included within the general contingency budget pending discussions with regard to the future management of the pavilion.

Members **NOTED** the observations and following consideration **AGREED** not to upgrade the CCTV at the rear of the Public Hall, the current system would provide adequate cover with minor adjustments. With regard to the system in the Memorial Playing Field it was **AGREED** to seek additional quotations for comparison.

The projections as presented had indicated a budget deficit in the region of £60,500.

## **762 BUDGET FRAMEWORK 2025/2026**

Members had previously been circulated with a copy of the draft budget framework for 2025/2026. The Chairman took members through the figures page by page and sought questions or comments.

As members moved through the figures the Town Clerk clarified that:

- The increase in employers NI in the region of £6,500 would have an impact on the staff budget in addition to the increase in the region of £9,500 staff incremental/cost of living increases.
- A sum had been included to acknowledge the ongoing safeguarding services provided by the staff at the Prout Bridge Project at the skate park and play area.
- Sums had been included to be able to consider appropriate grants/donations
- A sum had been included to fund VE Day commemorations in 2025
- A sum had been included to paint the front elevation of the Public Hall
- A sum had been included for contract cleaning of the public toilet in Memorial Playing Field
- General Contingency had been increased pending discussion with regard to the future management of the pavilion.

Members **NOTED** the figures and following consideration **AGREED** the framework as presented did not appear to have the flexibility for adjustment. The framework did not include funding for any large scale projects for the 2025/2026 financial year.

Pending final adjustments members **AGREED** to defer discussion with regard to possible precept levy to the Full Council meeting in January 2025.

## **763 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting **NOTED** as Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

**764 PUBLIC BODIES (Admission to meeting) ACT 1960**

Members **RESOLVED** that public and press be now excluded from the meeting whilst discussion took place on the following items on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of business to be transacted in respect of consideration of financial implications with regard to future charitable responsibilities.

**(a) BCCP – Pavilion**

The Town Clerk advised discussions had taken place with the Trustees, some of whom had expressed a desire to resign. Legal, and other advice had been sought with regard to the Councils potential position in the long term and she briefed members of the detail.

Members **RESOLVED** in **PRINCIPLE** to proceed with the intention that the Council be appointed a corporate trustee of the BCCP.

**765 MEETING**

The meeting which started at 7.00pm closed at 8.15pm

Chairman  
18<sup>th</sup> February 2025

**BEAMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL  
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS - December 2024**

**PAYMENTS**

**Direct Debits**

D/D	Autorama	Van Service Plan	30.42
D/D	BT	Cowie Room - Phone - Quarterly	153.65
D/D	NOW Pensions	Pension contributions November 2024	1194.7
D/D	NOW Pensions	Pension admin Fee Dec 2024	24.00
D/D	SumUp	Office Card Machine Charges	6.60
D/D CB3	UK Fuels	Fuel Supply - CB3	109.83
D/D CB3	UK Fuels	Fuel Supply - CB3	105.39
D/D	Lex Autolease	Electric van lease	388.75
D/D	O2	Mobile phone charges CB3 & EO - Nov 24	32.26
D/D	VPW Systems	Domain Name Dec24-Dec25	156.00
D/D	VPW Systems	Agility Mail - Mailbox Subscription Yearly	396.00
D/D	VPW Systems	Agility Voice Quarterly - Line rental	82.63
D/D	YGP	Gas Supply PH	172.89
D/D	Water2Business	Water Supply - Monthly	147.73
			<b>3,000.85</b>



**Bank Payments**

Bank Payment	The Greyhound	CB3 Christmas Meal	452.00
Bank Payment	Donovan Ateyo	December Salaries 2024	13,704.61
Bank Payment	Eden Enterprises	November 24 - Social Media Package	300.00
Bank Payment	BH Champman & Sons	50 x 4ft Christmas Trees	459.00
Bank Payment	RBL	Remembrance day band	150.00
Bank Payment	Stephen Amatt	Reimbursement - Uniform	30.99
Bank Payment	OCD	Nov 2024 - Cleaning of PT	960.00
Bank Payment	Dylan Ross	Nov24 - IT Support	150.00
Bank Payment	Pithers Cleaning Services	Window Cleaning PH	30.00
Bank Payment	Toolstation	Decorating supplies PH & Ladder attachment MPP	87.12
Bank Payment	Small Engine Services	Machinery Service and Repairs	865.82
			<b>17,189.54</b>



**BEAMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL  
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS - December 2024**

**Cheques**

106016	Bartletts	Protective Glasses	13.00
106017	Footprints	Printed Leaflets for Community Fridge	28.00
100056	Fry's	CB3 - Clutch Fault repair	198.00
106018	Larcombes	General Supplies PH, MPF and Christmas Trees	45.03
106019	Mer	Electric Van Charging Supply	30.79
106020	Scutum	Fire Alarm Maintenance - Jan 25 - Dec 25	129.24
106021	Tony Benger Landscaping	Extention to Cemetary - Herbicide, roll, mow & Fill depressions	5,537.28
106022	Torbay Display	Supply & Fit Christmas illuminations 2024	6,960.00
106023	Travis Perkins	Sand - Play Park & General Supplies MIPF	1,847.41
			<b>14,788.75</b>

**RECEIPTS**

Grassby	Memorial Fees	135.00
Cemetery Fees	Cemetary plot purchase	195.00
Hububb Foundation	Grant for Community Fridge	5,000.00
Dorset Council	CB3 - Concessionary fares	296.91
CB3 Income	Tickets and donations	481.79
NSIB	Interest	336.38
Netherbury Parish	Donation	300.00
PH Hire		1,012.50
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,757.58</b>

**NOTES FOR COUNCIL INFORMATION**

The above payments are approved expenditure items within existing contracts and / or the agreed budget framework. Councilors expenses having been vetted and authorised by the Chairman / Town Clerk or in the case of the Chairman's expenses, by Vice Chairman. Receipts are those from expected sources and within budget projections. Salary Cheque excludes employers and employees pension contributions. Payments include VAT where applicable.

Christine Bright  
Responsible Finance Officer

**Date: 17th December 2024**