

COLNEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

✉ Address: Highfield Park Visitor Centre, Hill End Lane AL4 0RA
☎ Telephone: (01727) 825 314
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2024-25 Item BC04

MINUTES OF COLNEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE STUDIO, COLNEY HEATH VILLAGE HALL, HIGH STREET, COLNEY HEATH ON WEDNESDAY 6 DECEMBER 2023, 2pm

Members in attendance	
Cllr J Clemow (Colney Heath Ward) Cllr G Shaw (Colney Heath Ward)	Cllr C Tallents (Colney Heath Ward) Clerk of the Council, Mrs L Peters
Other attendees Cllr S Parish, Cllr H Brazier.	
23/24 BC-01	APOLOGIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS No apologies were required as all members of the Committee were in attendance. It was confirmed that 2 councillors were audio recording the meeting.
23/24 BC-02	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST a) None declared b) It was confirmed that no written requests for dispensations were received. c) No dispensations received in advance.
23/24 BC-03	QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC <i>2.02pm Standing Orders were suspended so members of the public could have the opportunity to ask questions/make statements to the Council.</i> There was a question from Cllr Brazier regarding the use of the Metro Bank. It was confirmed that the bank account remained inactive as the balance was £0.00. <i>2.03pm Standing Orders were resumed.</i>
23/24 BC-04	PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET 2024/25 The 1 st version of the spreadsheet was noted as circulated and taken as read. Councillors wished to go through the budget line by line. There were questions to the RFO on the following income topics: - St Marks income of approx. £350. It was explained that this was annual interest on graves within the closed graveyard. - Bank Interest and the increase to £5000. It was explained that the £85,000 general reserves were now in an interest generating account the Cambridge and Counties having been moved from the Metro Bank where no interest was being generated. - The loan repayment from SADC was noted and would be shown as income from the next update. There were questions to the RFO on the following expenditure topics: - Telephones – councillors were keen that the contract was reviewed on both telephone and internet contracts - Payroll administration - Community grant amount would follow - Closed graveyard maintenance grant was explained - Parish Gras cutting was noted and that the contract was due for renewal on 1st April 2024 - The Beating the Bounds event was raised, background given and noted - Litter picks of the bus shelters were noted and councillors felt that 6 litter picks a year would be sufficient

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	• Bus shelter condition in Hall Gardens, Colney Heath was noted – S106 to pay for replacement would be due • Leases on assets were noted • Planning advice for planning appeals increased was noted and expected to increase There was no further comments raised on the budget and budget codes.
23/24 BC-05	PARISH COUNCIL RESERVES 2024/25 Cllr Shaw raised admin costs. Stated that the current councillors were on a ticket to reduce costs and that he didn't feel they had addressed the admin budget. Councillors were advised that this was an inappropriate forum for this discussion. Cllr Shaw continued and wanted to know what staff are doing and what they do with their time. Cllr Clemow quoted from his research that this Parish Council were not offering value for money in comparison to other Parish Council in the District, and the Band D was high to the higher than normal administration budget, the councillor confirmed a request had been discussed at the Staffing Committee. The Clerk again repeated her strong recommendation that this was not a subject for discussion in this meeting and in front of 5 councillors. The Chair of the meeting confirmed that there was a review in progress and we just had to get through it. The Clerk was visibly upset at the nature of this debate and the fact councillors had ignored her advice throughout. The reserves debate continued each of the reserves were discussed with the following agreed amendments: • Increase to Recreation Works Fund to £15,000 • Amend the code 333 to Leases
23/24 BC-06	PRECEPT RECOMMENDATION 2024/25 TO FULL COUNCIL It was felt that costs were ticking over and after a long debate on how the Precept could be increased it was duly proposed, seconded and unanimously RESOLVED that the recommendation to Council would be a 0.5% increase on the Precept for the 2024/25 financial year. Motion carried
23/24 BC-07	QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC <i>Standing Orders were not suspended as there were no questions.</i> The Chair thanked all for their attendance and closed the meeting at 4.30pm

Meeting closed at 4.30pm

L Peters LCGI PSLCC CPFA CiLCA
Clerk to the Council
Drafted 11/12/2023

