ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT minutes of a meeting of Finance Committee of Alfriston Parish Council (APC), held in the Alfriston War Memorial Hall on Tuesday 5th December 2023.

**Present:**

Cllr D Monteath-Wilson (Chair) Cllr S Rabagliati

Cllr J Watkins (Vice-Chair) Cllr J Spring

Cllr S Daw

**In attendance:**

Paul Richards - locum Clerk

There were 5 members of the public present.

1. **Chairman’s Welcome.**

Cllr Monteath-Wilson welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Paul Richards as the locum Clerk who would take the minutes.

1. **Grant Applications.**

The Chair asked Mr Richards to list the grant applications. He advised that the sum of the grants requested would leave a budget surplus for the current financial year of £190. The applications were from:

* **AEG** - £300;
* **Cuckmere Flood Forum** - £110; and
* **Cuckmere Buses** - £200.

Cllr Watkins advised that the requested sums were the same as the previous year and were within the budget provision. It was **RESOLVED**, unanimously, that the grants would be approved. The locum Clerk was asked to make the necessary payments.

1. **Budget and Precept 2024/25**

The Chair referred to the report and draft budget, circulated previously, which had been made available on the APC website ahead of the meeting. Comments and questions included:

* Cllr Spring queried the employer NI and pensions contributions. Mr Richards advised that they might be included in the “APC staff cost” budget line but would check with the locum Clerk;
* Cllr Spring also asked if the new Clerk’s mileage expenses were included in the budget. Mr Richards suggested that this might be allocated in the “Administration” budget line but would check the details with the locum Clerk;
* It was requested that the locum Clerk provide the date by which CIL funds need to be spent by in 2024.

The Chair advised that the draft budget would mean a slight 2.6% increase in precept compared to the 2023/24 budget. This was well below inflation and suggested that an increase to 5% would match expected inflationary cost increases in 2024/25. She proposed that, as several questions had been posed, the draft budget be represented for approval by the Finance Committee. This was **AGREED** unanimously.

1. **Public Questions**

* A resident asked when the CIL funds would be spent in 2024 and what they were for. The Chair asked Mr Richards to explain. He referred to the earlier question and that the locum Clerk would provide the date by which the CIL funds should be spent. He also advised on the CIL process and how the funds should be allocated;
* A resident queried VAT income and why there was no inclusion for 2024/25 compared to 2023/24. Mr Richards explained that the VAT income in 2023/24 was due to VAT recovered from projects undertaken by APC e.g., the new playground;
* A resident queried why APC had no provision for grant income. The Chair explained that Cllr Parkinson and Cllr Spring had been tasked to investigate likely grant sources; and
* A resident wanted to know what CIL was. Mr Richards explained the rationale behind the levy and what and when the funds could be spent on.

The meeting was closed by the Chair at 19:29.