

Gargrave Parish Council

Minutes of Finance Meeting held on Tuesday 12th December 2023 at 6.30 pm in the Match Room, Village Hall, Gargrave

Present: Cllrs Steve Coetzer (SC), Janet Sugden (JS), Martin Banks (MB), Karen Hunter (KH) and Gregory L Butt (GLB)

1. Acknowledge those present:

SC welcomed those present to the Finance meeting.

2. Receive Apologies and Reasons for Absence:

Kath Ashby Clerk – Due to resignation.
Cllr. David Shuttleworth – Not feeling very well.
Cllr. Chris Hoskin – Work commitments.
No other apologies received.

3. Receive Declarations of Interest

Nothing declared.

4. CIL Monies Allocation:

MB updated the meeting the current balance of £19,570 CIL money available.
MB also updated the meeting on the 3 quotes for the new basketball net received from;

- I. Proludic at £1,675 for the basketball post only.
- II. Pennine £2,528 for installation of the post and concrete pad
- III. Cowgill £800 another quote for the installation of the post and concrete pad

We are awaiting quotes from Proludic for two new pieces of equipment to replace two other pieces which have now received recommendations from Rospa for remedial work.

We also have a quote from Marmax for £252 for a heavy duty picnic table, installations costs yet to be determined.

We have a quote from Pennine for £497 for the installation of Cableway safety finger guards.

We have agreement that all these costs above will be covered by the CIL money and are excluding VAT.

When all the estimates for the work are received, they will go to the full council for approval.

5. GWWG (Gargrave Wilding Working Group) Funds:

MB confirmed that we have received the grant of £600 pounds from NYCC. The GWWG thanked the Parish Council for their support on helping to secure this grant.

The GWWG also advised that the company they would purchase the equipment from would invoice the Parish Council directly. MB agreed that we would then pay the invoice accordingly.

6. Budget Review and Costs:

MB talked the Cllrs through the draft budget which included year to date expenditure and forward projection of the full year expenditure.

Clls suggested a 5% uplift on certain elements of the budget

All agreed that in the next financial year budget monitoring was going to be important. It was also agreed to look at implementing cost savings i.e. less printing of documents.

7. Suggestions for new additions to the draft budget:

SC suggested the following

- I. We contact Waste Management regarding the cost to empty the dog fouling bins currently being emptied by Canal and River Trust as they will stop emptying them soon if not already.
- II. Cloud storage and the possibility of a Microsoft 365 subscription which would cost in the region of £2.50 - £4.50 per month this would include 1tb of OneDrive storage. This would future proof the Parish Council.
- III. Explore the option of a new website or improving our current website.

8. Precept setting:

MB reminded the meeting that there had been no precept increase in the last 3 years and took the Cllrs through the precept process and the modelling tool provided by North Yorkshire Council which is designed to assist with precept setting. MB ran through a couple of scenarios explain each increase using a band “D” to illustrate the increase.

Cllrs agreed that increasing the precept from the current **£46 000** by **5.84%** to **£50,000** was fair and reasonable and appreciated the current economic situation we all face.

The meeting closed at 20:30