

FARNHAM ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF FARNHAM ROYAL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 9 JANUARY 2023 AT 7.30PM AT FARNHAM COMMON VILLAGE HALL, VICTORIA ROAD, FARNHAM COMMON, SL2 3NL

Present

Paul Rowley	Marilyn Rolfe
Bob Milne	Richard Thomas
Tony Birkett	Katherine Damsell (Acting Chair)
Judith Hall (Clerk)	

23/18/FC Apologies for absence

Jenny Quilter, Clive Robinson, David Moore and Jigar Trivedi

23/19/FC To approve minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2022

The minutes of the meeting were **confirmed** as a true and accurate record and they were then signed by the Chair.

23/20/FC Matters arising from previous minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda

None

23/21/FC To consider the December 2022 Management Accounts

21.1 The Chair asked those present whether they had reviewed the quarterly management accounts and notes previously circulated. Those present confirmed they had. The management accounts and accompanying notes were presented by the Clerk.

21.2 It **was agreed** to recommend the acceptance of the management accounts at the January 2023 parish council meeting.

23/22/FC To discuss the 2023/24 budget and projections for 2024/25 and 2025/26

The Chair reminded those present that the 2023/24 budget had been considered in detail at the meeting held on 28 November 2022. Those present therefore considered the following budget lines:

Item	Decision/Recommendation
Expenditure:	
Open Spaces	
Flowerbeds (Kingsway Green & Rectory Close)	It was agreed to include a figure of £1,500 and to recommend some form of draught tolerant, evergreen planting and horizontal conifers were suggested. The Clerk was asked to approach Amersham Town Council, Clarke's Gardening Services and Capability Landscapes Ltd for suggestions / quotes.
Kingsway Green Grass Cutting	It was agreed that no figure should be included as the land is owned by Buckinghamshire Council, so it is the responsibility of that council to ensure the grass is cut. The Clerk advised that she had contacted the Local Area Technician to raise the issue. The Clerk was asked to follow this up with the Local Area Technician.
Waste (Dog Bags)	It was agreed that it would not be appropriate to recommend a cap on the parish council's expenditure on this item. Discussion then followed about the potential misuse of the bags and the sports club have agreed to monitor this.
General Grass Cutting	
Contract	It was agreed that no figure should be included as the land is owned by Buckinghamshire Council, so it is the responsibility of that council to ensure that the grass is cut. The Clerk advised that she had contacted the Local Area Technician to

	raise the issue. The Clerk was asked to follow this up with the Local Area Technician.
Street Lighting	
Electricity	The Clerk advised that Buckinghamshire Council had confirmed that the new group contract started on 1 October 2022 and to date the average cost for our streetlights was c.£1,114 per month. It was agreed that a figure of £12,000 should be included.
Projects	
FC Playground	It was agreed to leave the figures unaltered as until the application is made and the offer has been received more accurate figures will not be known.
Contract Performance Management	Previously, Bob Milne volunteered to review the woodland, churchyard and green space contractors and Paul Rowley agreed to review the playground contractors. Katherine Damsell subsequently volunteered to review the other areas such as flagpoles, defibrillators etc. It was therefore agreed to include a figure of £750 in respect of mileage incurred in carry out the site inspections.
FCSC Covenant (Legal Fees)	It was agreed to include a figure of £1,500 whilst further investigations are carried out. It was recommended that the matter should be added to the next Projects Working Group agenda.
MVAS/Speedwatch inc. training	It was agreed to include half of the estimated cost of the purchase of a new MVAS and training package from SWARCO. If the recommendation was agreed by the parish council, an application to share the cost would be made to the Beeches Community Board. It was also agreed to include the purchase of a handheld radar gun for Speedwatch as this would be another recommendation to the parish council.
Christmas Lights - new	It was agreed that no figure should be included as the tree was still very pretty without the stars.
King's Coronation	It was agreed that £1,000 should be included and it was noted that additional funding would be required through donations, grant funding or working with other community organisations.
Other Expenses	
Contingency	It was agreed that individual contingencies should be removed and that an overall contingency of £5,000 is included at the bottom of the budget sheet.

Following the discussion, it was agreed to recommend the budget prepared (as attached to these minutes).

23/23/FC To discuss the 2023/24 Parish Precept

23.1 Following a discussion, those present felt that an increase of 5%, in line with that announced by Buckinghamshire Council, was appropriate and agreed to recommend a precept of £209,750 at the January 2023 parish council meeting. It was noted that in real terms this is an annual increase of £3.15 (26p per month) for a Band D Council Tax Property.

23.2 It was also agreed that a statement should be issued by the Parish Council's Chairman for publication in the Farnhams Magazine, on the parish council's website and on the parish council's Facebook page shared with the Farnhams Community Facebook page. The Statement should explain the difficult decisions made regarding what to plant in the flowerbeds and special events such as King Charles III's Coronation and Christmas. It would also confirm the parish council's desire to focus of safety in the parish with road safety projects and improvements to the Farnham Common playground.

23/24/FC Any other business

None

23/25/FC Date and time of next Finance Committee meeting:

The meeting closed at 10.00pm. The next meeting is on 26 June 2023 at 7.30pm at Farnham Royal Village Hall

Signed as a true record of the meeting:-

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Chair