

Draft Minutes of the Dersingham Parish Council meeting held on 22nd January at 7pm in the Dersingham Village Centre

Councillors present: Coral Shepherd (Chairman), Brian Anderson (Vice Chairman), Tony Bubb, Martin Noble, Mike Shepherd, Jordan Stokes, Mark Ward, Ann Watkins, and Dennis Wright

Also present: Karen Orgill (Business Manager – BM)
Geraldine Scanlon (Assistant Business Manager - ABM – Minute taker),
1 Member of Public

1 Apologies for absence – Councillors Valerie Brundle, Robert Frost, Dane Hipkin and John Houston.

2 Declarations of interest and request dispensations by Councillors in any of the agenda items listed – None Received.

The meeting was placed in open session

3 Public participation – Parishioners present had no issues to bring to Full Council

The meeting was placed in closed session

4 To review and set the budget for 2024/2025

The Chairman advised each committee had discussed and revised their budgets for 2024/25, which had then been reviewed by the Finance & Administration (F&A) Committee. The proposed figures are shown on the Financial Budget Comparison (FBC) which has been shared via SharePoint.

Cllr M Shepherd reported the following:

The proposed 2024/25 figures for each committee have been reviewed by the F&A Committee and discussed with the Responsible Finance Officer (RFO), these proposed figures have been entered on the FBC report for tonight's meeting.

The 2024/25 budget consists of a number of carry-overs

Fixed Carry-overs:

For "Council"

Code 1155	QE2 Jubilee Hall contingency fund	£7000.00
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For "Environment"

Code 4050	Seat/Benches	£200.00
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For "Recreation"

Code 5065	Recreation Ground 5 Year Plan	£4100.00
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In addition to the above carry-overs there are three projects in progress which are unlikely to be completed before the close of this financial year, therefore it is difficult to predict the expenditure, so the committees wish to carry-over the unspent balance of the following codes, each figure is an estimated amount.

For "Council"

Code 1065	Legal Fees/Land Registration	£4100.00
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Code 1170	Service Improvements	£3600.00
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For "Communications"

6025	Public Noticeboards	£1000.00
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Councillors discussed the reserves and funding, and the impact of inflation and rising costs especially regarding contracts that will be renewed in the coming financial year. Cllr M Shepherd advised the F&A Committee had agreed to fully fund the 2024/25 budget from the Precept, with any surplus being used to top up reserves. Cllr J Houston asked if a budget had been agreed for a sound system to be installed at the centre to assist those with impaired hearing. Cllr C Shepherd advised she had previously raised the issue with the DVCA trustees, and the idea had been rejected. After discussion it was agreed that Cllr C Shepherd would review previous paperwork regarding a sound system being agreed and raise the matter again with the DVCA trustees. Cllr M Shepherd suggested, should the DVCA agree, the Parish Council may be able to assist with funding the project.

Cllr C Shepherd proposed the following recommendations by the F&A Committee be approved.

- 1 The 2024/25 budget be adopted as presented.**
- 2 That the any remaining funds against expenditure codes 1065,1170 and 6025 on 31/03/2024 be carried forward and the approved budget for 2024/25 be revised accordingly.**
- 3 Council agrees in principle to use accrued savings in the General Fund to top up the reserves as necessary, early in the new financial year.**

It was resolved to approve all proposals.

5 Items for inclusion on be next agenda

The Chairman asked for any requests to be submitted to the BM by noon tomorrow.

6 Date of next meeting –

Full Council and Precept Monday 29th January 2024.

With no further business the meeting was closed at 7.20pm