



RAYNE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Hazel Godfrey
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Minutes of the Finance Committee held on 15th January 2024 at 7.30pm in the Community Information Point, Rayne for the purpose of transacting the following business:

Members present: Cllr P Willis (Chair)
Cllr A Hooks
Cllr T Rippingale
Cllr M Stringer
Cllr J Rickwood

Clerk: Mrs Hazel Godfrey

Members of the Public: 0

MINUTE NO.	BUSINESS	DECISION
23/042F	APOLOGIES	
	No apologies were noted.	
23/043F	DECLARATION OF INTERESTS	
	Cllr Rippingale declared a non-pecuniary interest in budget items as line manager for the groundsmen	
23/044F	CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 9th October 2023	Proposed: Cllr Hooks Seconded: Cllr Rickwood Agreed to accept the minutes.
23/045F	PUBLIC FORUM	
	No public attended	
23/046F	BUDGET VS ACTUAL	
	Cllr Willis had reviewed the budget spreadsheet in preparation for the meeting and confirmed everything running well at the moment. There was a discussion around Parks & Open Spaces with a view to purchasing a chainsaw as the groundman is using his own one. It was agreed this should be purchased now.	Proposed: Cllr Hooks Seconded: Cllr Rickwood All agreed

	The repair of the electrics on the tractor is ongoing and Ernest Doe will provide a quote to complete the repairs. No further updates yet on the replacement tractor.	
23/047F	BANK ACCOUNT	
	<p>A discussion around earmarked funds took place and any movement will be made at year end. Earmarked funds for streetlights and grounds equipment are to be agreed at a later date.</p> <p>General Reserves - Items to be considered include having 3-4 months running cost in reserves.</p> <p>A question was raised regarding transparency and the view was that we should show residents that we have a spending plan. The details relating to Reserves and Earmarked funds continue to be communicated at the Annual Parish Assembly.</p>	
23/048F	STREET LIGHTS	
	<p>Braintree DC have been contacted about the replacement lights and they advised that no-one in the Braintree District has taken them up on this offer to date. The Clerk will contact other clerks in the area and find out if anyone has done this and what problems may have been encountered.</p> <p>It was agreed that the decision to use new LED units or proceed with the offer from Highways needs to be taken to full council to decide. The clerk will obtain 3 separate quotes from contractors for new installations and warranty.</p>	<p>Proposed: Cllr Hooks Seconded: Cllr Eldred All agreed</p>
23/049F	PROW	
	Essex County Council provide funding for Parish Councils to help with cutting local Public Rights of Way – there is a register of existing Councils who take part. It was suggested that the clerk writes to ECC to register our interest and find out what is involved.	
23/050F	COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNINGS	
	The first coffee morning will be on 27 th January. The idea is to make it a memorable event and allow the Council to engage with the community.	

	Need initial set up – crockery, cutlery, cakes – required and a Bookers Account has been opened as may be cheaper to get supplies there.	
23/051F	COUNCIL MEETING PROJECTOR SCREEN	
	The existing projector screen is broken, and it was generally agreed that this equipment is useful for communication purposes so needs to be replaced. Amazon have a suitable replacement so it was agreed to go ahead and purchase it.	Proposed: Cllr Hooks Seconded: Cllr Stringer All agreed
23/052F	ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS	
	Earmarked funds	
23/053F	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
	Next meeting 8 th April 2024	
	CLOSURE The meeting closed at 20.55	