

CAPEL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 08 NOVEMBER 2021 IN CAPEL PARISH HALL

Present: Mr Salter (Chairman), Mr Ball, Mrs Schryver, Mr McLachlan, Mrs Dale and the Clerk.

1. **Apologies:** None
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None
3. **Matters Arising:** None
4. **Questions from Members of the Public:** None
5. **Profit and Loss to 30 October 2021:**

31 August 2021	Reserve Account	£40,302.93
30 October 2021	Current Account	£53,035.40
8 November 2021	Current Account	£50,822.86

Mr Salter confirmed a zoom meeting had taken place on Friday 5 November to talk through financial commitments outstanding for this financial year, and proposed budgets for 2022/23.

The budget analysis was discussed, and a projection was given that the Council was confident to finish the financial year within budget. Provision has been made to meet the cost of the footpath at Misbrooks Green, but any further Community Projects will not be considered until the next financial year.

The biggest increase in next year's budget would be the amount of funding needed to cover any legal fees that might arise once the Mole Valley Local Plan has been reviewed by Mole Valley and forwarded to PINS. A legal and professional team comprising barrister, planning, landscape, ecology, and highway/transport professionals have been retained by the Parish Council to support with any issues that might arise and have a negative effect on the Parish. A realistic figure of between £40,000 and £50,000 will need to be put aside to cover these costs. The Committee agreed to propose this budget, a percentage of which will be met from the Reserve Account.

6. **To discuss Grant Application – St John the Baptist Church, Capel:**

An application has been received from the Church for upgrading the footpath. This is very slippery in winter months and prohibits some elderly parishioners from attending church. The Church is looking for match funding of £5,000.00. The Committee discussed the application, and it was agreed a further quotation should be obtained. The Clerk has arranged for this with the assistance of the Church Wardens. Once the extra quotation is received the application will be reviewed again. The Church has been made aware of the delay.

Grant Application – Christ Church, Coldharbour:

An application has been received from Christ Church to assist with the cost of tree works within the burial ground. The Church is looking for match funding of £550.00. The Committee discussed the application and agreed that this should be put before the Full Council, with a recommendation for approval.

Grant Application – Beare Green Village Christmas Walk:

An application has been received from Beare Green Community Association to assist with the cost of a children's Christmas Party and Christmas Village Walk. The

Association is looking for match funding of £125.00. The Committee discussed the application and agreed that this should be put before the Full Council, with a recommendation for approval.

The Committee also discussed the immediate works necessary to Capel Village Pond. A sum of £500 will be required to remove the bullrushes, with further works being arranged for next financial year. The Committee agreed this work should be undertaken and will be recommended for approval at the Full Parish Council.

It was discussed that a Hearing Loop would be a beneficial addition to the Parish Hall, as the acoustics are not good for those who are hard of hearing. The Committee agreed that the Clerk should request a price for purchase and installation. This was recommended for approval at the Full Parish Council meeting, if the total price is acceptable.

7. To Prepare Recommendation for Precept Request 2022/2023:

The Chairman addressed the Committee reminding them that the Budget for legal fees needs to be substantially increased and that the precept request for the past three years has remained unchanged. The budgets for the next financial year have been assessed and it will be proposed that the precept be increased by 9%. It was also proposed that the precept alone will be used to cover Council running costs, and the Concurrent Grant, when received, will be transferred into the Reserve Account.

The Committee also wanted it to be made clear that if the budget for legal and professional fees was not required to challenge the Mole Valley Local Plan, that budget would be put to good use on community projects throughout the Parish.

8. Date and time of next meeting:

Monday 10 January 2022 at 7:30pm.