

CAPEL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2023 IN CAPEL PARISH HALL

Present: Mr Salter, Mr McLachlan, Mrs Schryver, Mr Ball and the Clerk.

In attendance: Mr Cox, Mrs Taylor, Mrs Watson and Mr Tyson-Davies

1. **Apologies:** Mrs Dale
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None
3. **Matters Arising:** None
4. **Questions from Members of the Public:** None
5. **Profit and Loss to 31 August 2023:**

31 August 2023	NS&I Reserve Account	£50,353.31
31 August 2023	NatWest Reserve Account	£50,000.00
2 May 2023	NatWest Current Account	£16,610.80

Mr Salter addressed the meeting and confirmed that the second half of the precept has been received and £50,000.00 had been transferred into the NatWest Business Reserve Account leaving just a working sum to cover September invoices. Transfers will be made regularly to ensure the Reserve Account is able to accrue as much interest as possible.

The Maintenance Budget has been used quite considerably, but this was due to the Tree Survey being completed and extra works undertaken.

The PWLB statement was mentioned, and the Parish Council's loan to refurbish the Parish Hall has a balance of £57,972.28 as per the PWLB Audit Statement 31 March 2023. The Parish Council makes 2 payments a year, in May and November, on a fixed annuity.

6. **Trig Street Project:**

Mr Richard Tyson-Davies addressed the meeting and updated the Councillors regarding the path linking Newdigate and Capel. Discussions to improve this right of way began in 2009 and Surrey County Council have now confirmed that an all-weather path, 3m wide could be installed and have completed all preliminary and legal work. Ibstock Bricks are proving to be very helpful and will provide hardcore for the base of the path.

The overall cost of the project is likely to be £80,000. Individual pledges have been made but there is still a significant shortfall.

Mr McLachlan said that before Capel Parish Council was able to pledge any funding, external applications must be made. He mentioned Gatwick Airport Community Fund, LEADER Rural Development Fund and Mole Valley Grant Funding.

Mr Ball said that the Parish Council would always look for match funding, so obtaining grants was essential.

7. **Update – NatWest Business Reserve Account:**

The NatWest Business Account is now open and £50,000 from the Current Account has been transferred into it. A Letter of Authority to NS&I was signed by Mrs Schryver and Mr Salter, requesting the transfer of £50,000 from this account into the new Business Reserve.

8. To agree annual increments to Clerk's Salary

NALC have published the new pay scale for Parish Clerks. The Clerk's salary has been increased by 2 pay points, to an annual salary of £38,923.20. This was proposed by Mr Salter and seconded by Mr McLachlan.

9. Date and time of next meeting:

Monday 6 November 2023 immediately after the Planning Committee meeting.