

**BRIDGNORTH TOWN COUNCIL****Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting of Bridgnorth Town Council held in the Annexe, College House on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 6.45pm.**

**Present:** Councillors N Cooper (Chair), A Chetter, D Cooper and K Sawbridge

**In Attendance:** Mrs C Turner, Town Clerk  
Mrs R Williams, RFO

**Absent:** Councillor J Buckley

**FCM52/2324 WELCOME**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**FCM53/2324 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

It was proposed by Councillor D Cooper, seconded by Councillor K Sawbridge and unanimously **RESOLVED** to receive the following apologies:

Councillor R Ireland	Unwell
Councillor E Marshall	Personal reason

**FCM54/2324 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were declared.

**FCM55/2324 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

No public questions had been received.

**FCM56/2324 MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor N Cooper, seconded by Councillor K Sawbridge and unanimously

**RESOLVED:** to approve the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023.

**FCM57/2324 MEMBERS QUESTION TIME**

There were no members questions.

**FCM58/2324 QUARTERLEY BUDGET REPORT**

Members were asked to consider and discuss the third quarter figures to December 2023, noting that at the time of production, the month end closedown had not taken place due to time constraints.

Members had been provided with a forecast outturn and the Chair informed Members that overall, taking out the projected spend in FY 2023/2024 for the retaining wall project, the forecast shows an underspend of approx. £60,000. This is partly due to a conscious decision by Council to hold back expenditure to mitigate the impact of the retaining wall project.

Discussions were held with regards to the capitalisation of the retaining wall expenditure.

FCM59/2324 **BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR FY 2024/2025**

Councillor A Chetter joined the meeting. The Chair gave an update on what had been discussed before his arrival.

- i) The Committee had an in-depth discussion on the draft budget that had been presented showing a percentage increase of 5.48% and £8.54.

It was proposed by Councillor D Cooper, seconded by Councillor N Cooper and Unanimously:

**RESOLVED:** to recommend to full Council, that in view of the levels of risk associated with the retaining wall project and other external factors, the Finance Committee strongly recommends that the Council sets a balanced budget for FY 2024/2025.

It was proposed by Councillor N Cooper, seconded by Councillor A Chetter and Unanimously:

**RESOLVED:** to recommend to full Council a reduction in the pay award contingency from 5% to 4.5%

- ii) Members discussed the proposed changes to the car parking fees for FY 2024/2025.

It was proposed by Councillor N Cooper and seconded by Councillor K Sawbridge:

Up to 2 hours	£2.50
2 hours – 4 hours	£4.00
All day	£6.00

An amendment was proposed by Councillor A Chetter and seconded by Councillor K Sawbridge and unanimously **RESOLVED:** to recommend the following charges for the Severn Park car park:

Up to 2 hours	£2.50
2 hours – 4 hours	£4.00
All day	£5.50

This then became the substantive motion.

It proposed by Councillor A Chetter and seconded by Councillor K Sawbridge and unanimously **RESOLVED:** to recommend the following charges for the Severn Park car park:

Up to 2 hours	£2.50
2 hours – 4 hours	£4.00
All day	£5.50

END: 19.40