

COLD ASH PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES
WORKING GROUP MEETING
HELD ON Tuesday 17th October 2022
Via ZOOM**

Present: Cllrs. Marsh, Silsby & Verner
Mrs. Linda Randall – Clerk

Public Participation – There were no members of the public present.

1. **Dispensations to allow Councillors to discuss matters pertaining to the Precept**
With the authority granted to her, the **Clerk** will grant dispensations to Councillors to discuss matters pertaining to the Precept.
2. **Election of Chairman**
Cllr Richard Marsh was reelected as Chairman
3. **Apologies for Absence**
There were no apologies for absence.
4. **Declarations of Interest**
There were no declarations of interest.
5. **Minutes**
The Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd November 2021 were approved as a correct record and would be signed by the **Chairman** outside the meeting.
6. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**
There were no matters arising.
7. **Charity Return**
Members discussed charity return but it was agreed for more information to be collated and further review at the next meeting.
8. **Cold Ash Parish Council Charges**
Members reviewed the current charges but felt further discussion was required this would take place at the next meeting.
9. **Bank Accounts**
The current interest on the savings account was discussed, it was agreed to investigate other bank accounts and interest rates.

10. Members first draft of the 23/24 budget prepared by the **Clerk** the following changes were discussed:

- CC1 Salary The Clerk had advised she would like to retire at the end of November 2023 investigation into start salary for a new Clerk would take place.
- CC6 Electricity (Office) - Investigation to rise in electric would take place.
- CC8 Maintenance-Reduce to 300.00.
- CC10 Telephone- Increase to 450.00 to cover any rise in charges.
- CC11 Office Equipment – Reduce to 300.00
- CC13 Postal Charges – Reduce to 50.00 significant savings made in 22/23
- CC15 Stationery – Increase to 350.00 (cover ink cartridges)
- CC20 Trainings & Meetings – Reduce to 150.00 (Most training through BALC online)
- CC22 Hire of Premises - Increase to 800.00 (Rise in rental from Acland Hall)
- CC23 Insurance – Increase to 1800.00 – (To cover 10% increase in costs)
- CC24 Audit – Increase to 1100.00 (To cover increase in charges)
- CC25 Annual Meeting – Reduce to 100.00 (Budget not used in 2022)
- CC27 Competitions – Reduce to 0 (Poor interest)
- CC29 BALC – remain at 850.00 (new charges to be discussed at AGM 9th Nov)
- CC32a Digital Mapping – Increase to 200.00 (to cover any increase)
- CC33 Grants – Reduce to 1250.00 (None used in 2022)
- CC35 Street Light Supply Charge – Increase to 1000.00 (to cover increase in energy costs)
- CC36 Street Light Repairs Maintenance Charge – Increase to 350.00 (to cover increase in charges)
- CC43 Hedge Cutting – Increase to 2180.00 (Increase in charges)
- CC47 Grass Cutting Ashmore Green – Increase to 295.20 (Increase in charges 8 cuts)
- CC49 Grass Cutting Burial Ground – Increase to 590.40 (Increase in charges 16 cuts)
- CC51 Grass Cutting Closed Churchyards – Increase to 737.44 (Increase in charges 8 cuts)
- CC53 Grass cutting Recreation Ground – Increase to 2949.92 (Increase in charges 16 cuts)
- CC55 Play Area Maintenance – Reduce to 700.00 (Budget not used in 2022)
- CC56 Play Area Maintenance – Increase to 950.00 (increase in charges)
- CC60 Southend Grounds Maintenance – Reduce to 300.00 (Budget not used in 2022)
- CC61 Allotments/WAG maintenance – Reduce to 1800.00 (All budget not used in 2022 – request to move unused amount to Ash Die Back Fund discussion to take place at Parish Council Meeting).

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.47pm

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Chairman

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Date