



Batheaston Parish Council
Minutes of a Meeting of the Finance Committee
held at 8:00pm on Tuesday 21st January 2025
at the Rhymes Pavilion, Coalpit Road, BA1 7NW
Present: Councillors Alexis Pavlou (Chair of the Committee),
Peter Bryant, Arif Butt, and Sue Peachey.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1. **Public participation:** There were no member of the public present
2. There were **no apologies for absence.**
3. There were **no declarations of interest** from Councillors.
4. **Council approved** the draft minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on Monday 16th December 2024.

FINANCE OPERATIONS

5. Transaction Approval

- 5.1. The **Committee deferred** approval of the transactions undertaken up to December 2024.

5.1.1. The Clerk will publish on the website.

Clerk

- 5.2. The **Committee noted** that bank reconciliations have been signed by the Chair of the Committee to December 2024.

6. 2025/26 Budget and Precept

- 6.1. The **Committee received** the updated report on finances to end of December 2024 and forecast for the end of the financial year 2024/25.

- 6.2. The **Committee discussed** the potential impact on 2025/26 budget of the recommendations from the foregoing HR Committee meeting regarding resource changes, at £5,000 for the 6 months that is proposed to run from 1st April.

- 6.3. The **Committee received** a report on existing recurrent expenditure commitments, and one-off commitments arising from approvals by Council, and projected income for 2025/26.

6.3.1. They noted the need to improve communications services, such as the website and social media. It would be sensible to allocate increased investment.

6.4. The **Committee discussed** the assumptions to be made regarding inflation, national pay rise, and other factors outside the Council's control.

6.4.1. They agreed that allowing 4% for general inflation was prudent

6.4.2. It is necessary to maintain, and ideally to increase, reserves to fund the significant projects that the Council wishes to undertake over the next year or more.

6.4.3. The impact on householders should also be borne in mind; the important consideration is the rise that they will see in their Council Tax bills.

6.4.4. The Committee therefore **resolved to recommend that the Precept be set so that the increase from this year per household is 4%.**

6.4.5. The Precept request for 2025/26 will therefore be £135,420.

6.4.6. Such an increase would create a fund of £60k for project investment.

7. Clerk's Report

7.1. The Clerk had nothing further to report .

The Meeting closed at 9:15pm

Forthcoming Meetings:

Council Meeting, 11th February 2025

Council and Committee meetings are open to the public, and members of the public are welcome to join and may speak by invitation.

Signed by Cllr Alexis Pavlou, Chair of the Committee:

Date: