

STOKESLEY TOWN COUNCIL
FINANCE COMMITTEE

A Meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Tuesday 3 December 2024

Finance Committee Membership:

Cllrs Mike Canavan, Sean Carey, David Cook, David Oxley and Andy Wake.

Present: Cllrs Mike Canavan, David Cook, Bryn Griffiths and Andy Wake.

Clerk –Mrs Julie McLuckie.

1/03/12/24 NOTICE OF MEETING

RESOLVED that the public notice of the meeting had been provided in accordance with Schedule 12, paragraph 10(2) of the Local Government Act 1972.

2/03/12/24 MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

None present.

3/03/12/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- a. **RESOLVED** that the apologies from Cllr Oxley be received.
- b. **RESOLVED** that the reasons for absence provided be agreed.

4/03/12/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

None declared.

5/03/12/24 ELECTION OF CHAIR

RESOLVED that Cllr Canavan be appointed Chair to the Finance Committee.

6/03/12/24 TERMS OF REFERENCE

RESOLVED that the Terms of Reference were reviewed and agreed.

7/03/12/24 MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 5 DECEMBER 2023

RESOLVED that the minutes from the meeting held on 5 December 2023 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

8/03/12/24 INVESTMENTS

No further updates. **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would request up to date reports from Redmayne Bentley.

9/03/12/24 TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET REVIEW 2024/25 AND PROPOSALS FOR THE BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2025/26

- a. **RESOLVED** that the Annual Budget 2024/25 for the Town Council was reviewed and noted.
- b. **RESOLVED** that the submissions for the annual budget 2025/26 submitted by the individual Town Council Committees be received.
- c. Members prepared the budget proposals for 2025/26 based on the information provided by Town Council Committees. **RESOLVED** that the following amendments would be made compared with the 2024/25 budget.

Income

North Yorkshire Council Grass Cutting (areas formally paid for by Hambleton District Council and subject to an annual CPI increase) from £1,750 to £1,900.

North Yorkshire Council Grass Cutting from £1,391 to £1,450.

Events down from £500 to £0.

Library / Precept element down from £24,000 to £23,000.

Expenditure

Salaries (to reflect the increase in the Living Wage from £11.44 to £12.21 and a 3% increase for Local Government Staff, plus the increase on the Employer N.I. element) increase from £101,500 to £103,000.

Insurance – increase from £3,800 to £3,900.

Office Rental – increase from £6,292 to £6,760.

Grass Cutting (new contract) increase from the original amount set in the budget of £21,000 to £26,445 for the season 24/25 to £33,000.

Open Spaces – Trees – Increase from to £11,000 to £12,200.

Pest Control Contract – increase from £700 to £800.

Public Toilets – decrease from £12,000 to £10,000.

S137 Grant – decrease from £4,750 to £4,500

YLCA Subscription – increase from £950 to £980.

Christmas Lights Purchase / Maintenance – increase from £6,000 to £7,500.

Christmas Lights Electricity – increase from £300 to £500.

Legal and Professional Fees – decrease from £1,000 to £500.

External Audit Costs – increase from £1,000 to £1,200

CCTV – increase from £500 to £1,100.

Events – increase from £2,600 to £3,000.

- d. Annual Precept 2025/26– **RESOLVED** that based on the agreed budget for 2025/26 the Precept should be increased by a proposed £13,950 this year from £177,500 to £191,450 (£168,450 Town Council element and £23,000 for the Globe element). This equates to a 4.99% increase which means a £4.10 annual increase for a Band D property (or 34p increase per month). The Finance Committee feel it is necessary to impose this increase to cover the increase in salary costs in particular the 6.73% increase in the national living wage and the increase in N.I. employer contributions along with the increase to the grass cutting contract this year.

10/03/12/24 STOKESLEY MANORIAL LANDS TRUST AND STOKESLEY TOWN HALL TRUST BUDGET REVIEW 2024/25 AND PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2025/26

- a. **RESOLVED** that the Annual Budget 2024/25 for the Town Hall Trust was reviewed and noted.
- b. **RESOLVED** that the Annual Budget 2025/26 for the Town Hall Trust be approved with the following amendments to last year's budget:-

Income

Town Hall Lets – Increase to £62,000

Miscellaneous – increase from £0 to £3,000.

Expenditure

Laundry – increase from to £2,000.

Cleaning (annual carpet clean) – increase from £0 to £500.

Cleaning materials – decrease from £2,200 to £2,000.

PRL and PRS – increase from £1,000 to £1,250.

- Waste Disposal – increase from £2,750 to £3,000.
- Miscellaneous – increase from £1,350 to £3,000.
- Salaries – increase from £47,800 to £51,000 (to cover the increase in Living Wage from £11.44 to £12.21).
- Professional Fees – increase from £1,050 to £1,100.
- Furniture and Fittings – decrease from £2,000 to £0.
- Window repairs – to include a budget to repair and open windows of £15,000.

c. **RESOLVED** that the Annual Budget for 2024/25 for the Manorial Lands Trust was reviewed and noted.

d. **RESOLVED** that the Annual Budget 2025/26 for the Manorial Lands Trust be approved with the following amendments to last year’s budget:-

Income

- Farmers Market rents – increase from £7,000 to £7,500.
- Lease agreements – decrease from £3,750 to £3,550.
- Fair Lease – increase from £14,750 to £15,200 (based on the minimum increase of 3%).

Expenditure

- Cobble Repairs – increase from £10,000 to £30,000
- Repairs and Miscellaneous, including Levenside – decrease from £15,000 to £10,000.
- Town Hall Transfers (if required not used in recent years) – increase from £30,000 to £45,000.
- Town Warden Employee – to include in the budget a member of staff to carry our routine maintenance on behalf of MLT - £6,400.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

SignedDate