

Elsenham Parish Council

Finance Committee Meeting
held on 13 December 2022
at 1.45pm in Old Franks, Elsenham

Present:

Mr. P Johnson (Chairman PJJ), Mrs. F Lambert (FL), Dr. G Mott (GM),
and Mrs. L Johnson (Parish Clerk LJ).

Members of the public:

None.

Minutes

1. Apologies for absence. Mr. B Ogilvie (BO).

2. Declarations of Interest. None.

3. Signing of the minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 November 2022 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Budgets for 2023/2024.

At the last Parish Council meeting a resident had reported that there had been some violent crimes in the village, which the former PCSO had helped deal with very efficiently. FL asked if EPC could re-employ a PCSO until a Special Constable could be appointed to the village.

PJJ said it would add approximately another £5,000 onto the precept. EPC had applied for a Special Constable who have far more powers than a PCSO.

LJ to add the proposal of employing a PCSO to January's Parish Council's agenda.

It had been agreed at the Parish Council meeting to allow the Playing Field Committee to spend up to £3,000 on installing a light on the Leigh Way path.

It was agreed to take the funds from EMR Playground Equipment. Reducing the funds this year from £8,000 to £5,000 and taking forward £5,000 to next years budgets.

To reduce the final precept figures the following budgets were amended,

- a) 4060 'New Housing Advice', from £5,000 to £4,000.
- b) 4065 'Legal and Professional Fees', from £4,000 to £3,000.
- c) 'Parish Clerks Office' in Administration for £1,000, removed.
- d) EMR 'Community Hall Land project' for £6,000, removed.
- e) A new budget added in Administration, 'Councillors Allowances' £500.

These amendments reduced the precept to £85,636; this represented a 1.39% increase making a £0.85p increase per year on a band D household.

It was agreed to recommend to Full Council that EPC ask for a precept of £85,500 for the financial year 2023/2024.

5. Councillors Expenses and Allowances.

At the Parish Council meeting members voted in favour of a Councillors' Allowance of £30 per year.

PJJ had informed Ben Ferguson at UDC, who will ask the Independent Remuneration Panel to make a recommendation on the amount of the allowance. However, EPC do not have to accept their recommendation. PJJ is to start work on a 'Councillors' Allowance' policy.

6. Grass Cutting Contract.

PJJ is to carry out a few amendments to the Grass Cutting contract to bring it up to date. It will then be circulated to all members and if agreed can be sent to the three potential grass cutting companies.

The meeting closed at 3.30pm.