

**MINUTES of a Finance Committee Meeting of Broughton Gifford Parish Council held on
Monday 12th December 2022 in the village hall 7:30pm to review expenditure to date and set
the budget for 2023/24**

Present: Cllr Hooper (Chair), and Cllrs Corbin, Johnson, and Webb
Georgina Berry – Clerk

32. Preliminaries:

- i. **Apologies:** None received
- ii. **Declarations of Interest:** None received
- iii. **Dispensation requests:** None received

33. Budgets:

a. To review next year's proposed budget 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024 (appendix A)

The Clerk talked the committee through the draft budget noting that the budget didn't include income from any source other than the precept and the cemetery grant as these are both guaranteed income.

- i. **Grants and subscriptions:** The committee discussed the funding available for both 'general' and 'major' grants. The committee were happy to leave the grant funds as they were.
- ii. **Chairman's Allowance:** According to the Local Government Act 1972 15 (5) "A parish council may pay the chairman for the purpose of enabling him to meet the expenses of his office such allowance as the council think reasonable." Chairman Hooper felt he did not need to claim an allowance.
- iii. **Cemetery Improvements:** The Clerk noted that there was only £100 in the budget for this. This will not cover very much in the way of improvements. There are some very large trees that need pruning. The railings around the boundary of the cemetery will also need cleaning and painting in the not-too-distant future. There are potentially funds becoming available via Community Benefit from the Norrington solar battery storage facility.
- iv. **Play Area maintenance:** Similar to the above – only £100 has been budgeted for. Although there are no foreseen issues so there should be no need for additional budget here.
- v. **The Stone Barn - Maintenance:** The committee allowed a budget of £100 for all the day-to-day costs of running the stone barn. The cost of utilities is covered by the Cricket Club, so £100 covers the maintenance which should be minimal going forward, especially considering the planned renovation.
- vi. **Costs relating to the granting of easements:** At present there have been 2 requests for easements over common land. The Clerk is investigating this. After a discussion the council decided not to budget anything for this as it felt that all costs should be carried by those requesting the easements. **The clerk will raise this in full council for discussion.**
- vii. **Special Projects & requests from councillors:** None raised
- viii. **Clerk's Salary:** The clerk explained that the salary increases are set by the LGA and disseminated via NALC. This year the increase was £1p/h. The clerk has allowed for the same again.

b. To review next year's proposed solar farm monies budget 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024

- i. Major grants: Remains the same
- ii. Cemetery: Remains the same
- iii. Defibrillators: Increased as both defibs are to be renewed next year
- iv. Ponds and trees: Nothing allocated
- v. The Stone Barn renovation: £35,000 allocated. This will be insufficient for the work and further grants will be sought.
- vi. Bus Shelters: This was reduced to reflect the potential community benefit.

Solar farm monies were allocated as follows:

MSA

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Major Grants and Projects Fund	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Parish Project -New Play Area	4,952.66	4,23.31.00	-
Parish Project – The Stone Barn	37,750.00	39,750.00	35,000.00
Ponds and Trees	2000.00	2,000.00	-
Cemetery	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Bus Shelter	2,827.00	2,827.00	1,879.58
Phone box renovations	2,000.00	2,000.00	-
Defibrillator costs	4,000.00	1,800.00	4,000.00
Highways – Traffic Calming		12,460.00	-
Total Solar farm money	53,751.87	58,529.66	43,879.58

c. **To review next year's proposed S106 spending 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024**

- i. **To note the claims made against S106 this year:** the council noted the claims the clerk has made this year and acknowledged that she was still waiting to hear if the claims were successful.

	Claimed but not yet paid	Remaining funds
		£6,429.12
Common tree guards	£852.00	£5,577.12
Millennium pond work	£900.00	£4,677.12
Newleaze trees & guards	£1,815.38	£2,861.74
Cut back of Common willow trees	£300.00	£2,561.74

ii. **To consider how to spend the remaining S106 money**

The clerk reminded the council that the restrictions on how it could spend the S106 money were quite tight and could only be used to improve open spaces. As there are no plans to plant any more trees and the traffic calming scheme has finished there was a discussion around how to use the money. Cllr Carbin suggested a Christmas tree on the common. **The clerk will take the recommendation to full council.**

D. **Reserves: to note current reserves and agree reserves for 2023/24**

Council noted the current reserves and agreed to give the 'Sport and Youth Fund' money to Broughton Gifford and Holt Youthwork Project as it is more appropriate with them than for council to hold on it. **The clerk will take the recommendation to full council.**

Reserves	
Contingency	4,620.00
Elections	1,500.00
sport and youth fund	1,073.00 Give to Holt youth group?
	7,193.00

Recommendations:

1. The Council Precept be increased by 10% from £16,292.14 to £18,190.59.
2. To use S106 money to plant a Christmas tree on The Common
3. To agree to give the 'Sport and Youth Fund' money to the Broughton Gifford and Holt Youthwork Project
4. To agree that any and all costs relating to the granting of Easements are met by the requestor.

With no further business, the meeting closed at 8:40 pm

MSB