



# HEATH & REACH PARISH COUNCIL



## MINUTES

Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at The Village Barn, Eastern Way, Heath & Reach

1. **Meeting attendees:** Cllrs. Fitzpatrick, Boyden, Inns & Loomes
2. **Apologies for absence:** None
3. **Absentees:** Cllrs. Bevan & Smith
4. **Declaration of interest:** None
5. **Review of income & expenditure for 1<sup>st</sup> half of year against budget:**  
Income & expenditure is in line with budgets set.
6. **Consider Projects for 24/25 including current projects:**
  - a) **Clock Tower repairs:**  
The possibility of funding is still being investigated. Cllr. Boyden reported English Heritage have no funds available so has re-submitted to Heritage Lottery Fund. Clerk has received an email regarding a 'UK shared prosperity fund and rural England grant' Clerk to forward email to Cllr. Boyden to consider an application.
  - b) **Traffic calming:**  
No further development. Will be discussed at next FPC meeting, 6<sup>th</sup> November.
  - c) **Thrift Road Park:**  
Following the recent quarterly inspection, work recommended included 'Infill of safety surface around roundabout base & cradle swing base' – to be included in next years budget - £3,000.
  - d) **Hedge cutting at back of cemetery:**  
Clerk to obtain quotes. Include in next year's budget.
  - e) **Wildflowers along Leighton Road, Pond up to Church:**  
This could be covered in this year's budget, will be discussed at next FPC meeting 6<sup>th</sup> November.
  - f) **Hedge laying at Millennium Gardens:**  
The Contractor who was instructed to do the work, as agreed September 2023, is no longer able to. Cllr Loomes to look for further quotes. Cllr Fitzpatrick suggested approaching the Princes Trust. Cllr Loomes concerned that some shrubs are overgrown and should be cut back before quotes are obtained. With the lack of a volunteer group, Cllr Loomes is willing to cutback shrubs as much as possible, although will need help with disposal.

**g) Water supply into Pavilion at Bryants Lane:**

There is currently no water run into the Pavilion, which it was felt there should be –  
Quote received £1344 plus VAT, work to be instructed - IT WAS AGREED.

**7. Prepare draft budget for 24/25:**

Discussed in item 6, full preparation moved to Finance meeting in December.

**8. Interest on savings:**

Clerk reported money held in reserve account is currently receiving 1.31% AER and that it could achieve 3.6% AER, depending on commitment. It was felt that the whole amount of the reserve should not be tied into a long-fixed term deposit but agreed that a 32-day notice account achieving 2.63% AER was acceptable. Clerk to transfer £100,000 into the higher rate account.

Date of future meetings:

22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023

Meeting closed at: 3.25pm

*In accordance with The Data Protection Act 2018 all attendees of the meeting are hereby notified that the meeting will be recorded as an aide memoire for the clerk when compiling the minutes. The recordings are held securely and are deleted after the resolution that the minutes are a true and correct record.*

Minutes prepared by Sue Grierson-Hill, Parish Clerk on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023

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