



Appleton Parish Council

Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road, Appleton, WA4 5EQ

Telephone 01925 268153 Email clerk@appletonpc.org.uk

Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee on Thursday 6th July 2023 at 9.45am

Present: - Councillor L Chapman, Councillor G Chapman, Councillor M Jervis, Councillor K Critchley and Councillor P Lewenz.

Clerk, Mrs J Monks.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, Councillor L Chapman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Councillor M Delaney, Councillor C Critchley and Councillor M Marshall sent their apologies for the meeting.

2. Members Code of Conduct

None declared.

3. Matters Arising

The clerk confirmed that the meeting with Warrington Borough Council with regards to Air Quality monitors has been arranged for Thursday 24th August at 10am at Appleton Parish Hall.

The replacement fire exit door will be installed on Friday 4th August 2023.

4. Cavity Wall insulation

The clerk has obtained three initial rough quotes for cavity wall installation. Only detailed quotes will be provided when an order has been confirmed and then they firm that has been awarded the contact will undertake a full survey of the building and confirm a final quote. The clerk stated that the Parish Hall will need to close during the period of the works.

The clerk asked to confirm what the gas bill was for the Parish Hall so this could be considered at the next Finance and General Purposes committee meeting.

5. Grant procedure

The clerk reported that the grant budget for 2023/2024 is £6,000. Grants already awarded are a grant for Stockton Heath Festival (£1,100) and Bawming Day (£600) as such the balance in the grant budget is £4,300.

It was

Recommended that;

The following was removed from the grant procedure and application form;

The maximum funding allocated at each quarterly meeting will be one quarter of the total annual budget for grants.

6. Tuesday Litter team Grant application

The grant application was to be considered at the next Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting in line with the grant procedure.

6. Lumb Brook Millennium Green grant application

The clerk was asked to contact Lumb Brook Millennium Green stating that they must provide bank statements which cover the last three months in support of their application in order so that the grant application could be considered at the next Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting in line with the grant procedure.

8. Bank accounts and interest rates

The bank balance for each account as at 22nd June 2023 is as follows;

Bank Accounts

Natwest	£84,381.25
Mansfield	£85,000.00
Nationwide	£85,000.00
Hanley BS	£85,000.00
Skipton Building Society	£85,000.00
Less unpresented cheques	£0.00
Other adjustments	£0.00
	<u>£424,381.25</u>

All the savings accounts have £85,000 each which is the maximum figures as per the Financial compensation scheme.

The rates of interest for each account as at 22nd June 2023 are as follows;

NatWest no interest, current account.

Mansfield Building society 3.75% - 30 day notice account.

Nationwide Building Society 1.5% instant access.

Hanley Building Society 2.15% but is increasing by 0.25% from 1st July 2023. 90 day notice account

Skipton Building Society 3.20% - instant access.

RESOLVED that;

The clerk was asked to change the Nationwide instant access account to a 125 day Notice account to obtain better interest.

Councillor L Chapman asked if a fixed rate bond could be considered at the next Finance and General Purposes Committee.

9. Refund request from Birthday party booking

The Finance and General Purposes Committee considered the request for a birthday party booking on 22nd July 2023.

RESOLVED that;

No refund can be made as the booking was cancelled with less than three months' notice and this is clearly stated in the hiring terms and conditions, the invoice which was issue and is on the Parish Council's website.

10. Parish Van

The amount of up to £400 was approved at the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting on 4th May 2023 and the actual charge was £401.80 plus VAT.

RESOLVED that;

The amount of £401.80 plus VAT was approved for the van service and MOT.

RESOLVED that;

The amount of £40.00 plus VAT was approved for a replacement tyre.

The clerk reported that had been further additional expenditure incurred for the Parish Van and this will have to be approved at the Parish Council meeting in July.

11. Laptop repair

RESOLVED that;

The amount of £70.83 plus VAT was approved for the repair to the laptop.

12. New Energy Bills Discount Scheme

RESOLVED that;

The Parish Council was to make an application for the new energy bills discount scheme. Councillor L Chapman, as Chair of the Appleton Parish Council was authorised to sign a declaration letter and the clerk will witness this letter. The clerk will send this along with all the other evidence required which includes a full set of ends of year accounts, income statement and sample of twenty sales invoices in support of the application.

13. Emergency lighting replacement

RESOLVED that;

The amount of £155.61 plus VAT was approved for the installation of replacement emergency lighting for the Parish Hall.