

Harrietsham Parish Council
Finance and General Purposes Committee
Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 12th January 2023 at 7:30pm

Present: Cllrs Dean (chairman), Luck, Roots, T Sams, and M Cuerden (RFO/Amenity Manager)

Apologies: Cllr Stanley

Members of the public: None

2. **Disclosures:** None

3. **Minutes of the last meeting** (10th November 2022) were approved at the subsequent Council meeting. A further copy was signed at this meeting for F&GP records.

4. **Review of 2022/23 Accounts to date.** The RFO went through both Income and Expenditure spreadsheets column by column, answering questions as they arose and highlighting areas where individual budget headings were likely to be either over or under. He noted that, overall, we could expect to end the year roughly on budget in terms of the totals.

5. **Confirmation of Bank Balances:** The chairman checked the Natwest bank statements against figures shown in the bank reconciliation, and confirmed that all figures tallied.

6. **Village Hall update:** The RFO reported that he had drawn up a year-end statement for the VHT finances, which would go to Trustees for consideration, and then on to an external auditor for confirmation. He noted that the position had deteriorated over the year, as we knew when we first took over in October, but that the rate of decline had definitely slowed in the last three months. He did, however, point out that there is some expenditure in the Council's books which would otherwise have been in the Trust's. He also noted that it seemed as though the call upon staff time was easing, which would also help.

8. **Budget 2023/24:** The RFO presented a draft budget, which had been drawn up by first looking at the initial 9 months of the year so far, then projecting the remaining 3 months in order to arrive at an estimated overall outturn for the year. The budget headings were then adjusted to reflect the 2022/23 figures, which could be used as a basis for 2023/24 estimates. It was found that with only minor adjustments, we could achieve a balanced budget for next year using the councillor's previously expressed preference for a 0% change in the precept. It was therefore agreed to **Recommend to Council** that we maintain our precept request at £95.47 per Band D property, generating a precept of £131,481 (decreasing our funding from last year by £716). Proposed Cllr Dean, seconded Cllr Sams, all in favour

9. **Date of next meeting** – Thursday 20th April 2023 at 7:30pm.

Meeting closed at 8:15pm.