



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF OF
FOWLMERE PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE**
which was held in the Dorothy Pluck Room, St Mary's Church, Fowlmere
on **TUESDAY 22nd October 2024 at 19:30**

PRESENT: Cllr Baker-Oxley, Cllr Hobro, Cllr Mulholland, Cllr Sargeant (Chair)
IN ATTENDANCE: The Clerk and 0 members of the public

BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED

In accordance with LGA 1972 schedule 12 10(2) (b) which states that business must be specified.

24/F30 Apologies for absence (LGA 1972 s 85(1))

Cllr Lennon (Personal Commitments); Cllr Roberts (Absent)

24/F31 Declarations of interest & requests for dispensations in agenda items (Localism Act 2011 s 31 s33)

Cllr Mulholland declared an interest in HR matters should they be discussed.

24/F32 Minutes of Previous Meeting ([click here](#)) (in accordance with standing order 12a)

Proposal: The Finance Committee of Fowlmere Parish Council herewith agree the minutes of the meeting held on 31st July 2024.

Proposed: Cllr Sargeant

Seconded: Cllr Baker-Oxley **motion passed.**

24/F33 Public Participation Session

There were none

24/F34 Review of expenditure 24/25 to date (17th October) [circulated with agenda]

Expenditure was reviewed, mention was made regarding the Street lighting and Public Areas.

24/F35 Review of reserves to date (17th October) [circulated with agenda]

Reserves were reviewed, discussion was had regarding:

- Pebble fund, amount and the time needed to spend the Grant, and whether it can be used to help with funding items for tidy up days to help increase biodiversity? Clerk to speak to Cllr Collinson.
- Interest raised from the reserves; whether this and other un-estimate-able income should be used to offset the precept the following year, or if interest should be added to the earmarked reserve or be placed in general reserve as it is now.
- Looking at a proposed increase in precept, potentially using a 2-3year staging offset of general reserves to reduce the impact.
- Last 3 years precept increases have all been below rate of inflation, (a real term cut for the council); next year will need to be a real term increase, figures are higher but inflation is now lower.
- Amount of general reserves.

24/F36 Review and discussion of 25/26 draft budget [circulated with agenda]

The draft budget was reviewed.

- Each cost code, budget and estimated spend was reviewed and discussed.
- Additional ear marked reserve categories were discussed especially where there is a multi-year need for funds eg election contribution, or a specific amount needed for replacement of equipment or regular (but not annual) works.

24/F37 s.137 Grants and Donations

a) Review: Grant application for the MAGPAS

- Looked at if other Parish Councils donate to MAGPAS.
- Agreement that it is a good cause that can benefit anyone from birth to old age.
- Useful way to help keep s.137 commensurate.

Proposal: To donate an agreed amount to MAGPAS from s.137 budget

Amended Proposal: To donate £200.00 to MAGPAS from s.137 budget

Proposed: Cllr Sargeant **Seconded:** Cllr Baker Oxley **motion passed.**

24/F38 To note: The opening of two bank accounts 1) Hampshire Trust Bank, 2) Redwood Bank to both have £85,000.00 transferred into them with the interest from both accounts transferred back to Unity Trust Current Account.

24/F39 To agree the virements below:

- a)** Virement of £ 1500.00 from General Reserves to Public Area 23/24 budget

Proposal: to agree the above virement.

Amended proposal: to virement £1000 from General Reserve to Public Area 23/24 budget

Proposed: Cllr Sargeant **Seconded:** Cllr Hobro **motion passed.**

24/F40 To agree the expenses below: [all circulated with agenda]

a) Chair travel expenses

b) Clerk travel expenses & overtime

Proposal: to agree the above expenses.

Proposed: Cllr Sargeant

Seconded: Cllr Hobro

motion passed.

Meeting closed 20:49

Any business to be considered at a Parish Council meeting must be delivered to the clerk for inclusion in accordance with Standing Order 9b.