

WINTHORPE WITH LANGFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance Committee held on Thursday 20th January 2022 at the Village Hall commencing 7.00pm

Present: Mr A Leary (Chairman), Mr L Cammack, Mr M Kneen, Mr B McClymont, Mr B Wright, Mr P Smith, Mr B Allen, Mr P Farmer and Mrs L Dales

Apologies: Mr S Lord

Clerk: Mrs S Sillery

Declarations of Interest: None

Matters Arising from the minutes of the 21st October 2021

Confirmation from Clerk that last year's accounts have been signed off by PKF.

Tarmac Grant – see minutes under accounts

Grant from Councillor Mrs Dobson of £200 is no longer available.

Precept – Mr Cammack has gone through the figures in relation to this coming year's Precept and feels that it should be increased to £9000.00. He outlined the increases in costs and the increase reflects RPI increase. This is the first increase that the Parish Council have asked for in six years. Due to the expected rise in inflation, it is expected that grass cutting costs will rise together with other increases in services and therefore the request was justified. The committee agreed on the increase. Clerk to submit forms to N.S.D.C.

Accounts

Current Account £1,463.16 – Payments Doug Lyne for November mowing £404.67, Playground Inspection fee to NSDC £114.00 (Community Centre paid 50%, £57.00), Uxello £150.00, Defib pads and batteries £67.00, Clerk's Wages £170.00

Focal Point £2,005.91 – Willsons £214.00 January Printing.
Advertising fees coming through

Festival £770.54 – Unchanged

Events	£235.97 – Unchanged
Holding	£13,501.12 – Unchanged
Neighbourhood Plan	£7,836.00 – Printing costs for survey £54.00
Property Trust	£7,739.34 – Allotment Rent of £285.10 credited
Tennis Club	£4,721.37 – Unchanged

The Clerk confirmed that bank charges had been levied by HSBC on all the current accounts but not the savings accounts. Having contacted the bank, they confirmed that this change was communicated in August 2021. Clearly, we cannot pay £60 per year per account as this is just not good use of public money. We therefore have to look for an alternative bank that does not charge and we also need to cut down the number of accounts we run. Mr Cammack suggested we keep the holding and current accounts. Mr Cammack will talk to Chris Hickman and Duncan Richardson about the Tennis Club and Focal Point respectively and ask what they want to do.

Santander might be an option as we have accounts with them. The Property Trust account is with them as a current account, and we have another savings account. Clerk to talk to Santander to see what options we have.

Mr Leary confirmed that the Think Again Group were having the same problems. Apparently, TSB, Lloyds and Barclays don't open Charitable accounts. Nat West do but you need to be an existing account holder. Mr Allen said he would talk to Nat West as he banks with them. There are online options such as Starling Bank but then you have the problem of paying cash and cheques into the account.

It was agreed that the Clerk should organise the closure of the Events and Festival accounts and put the funds into the Current account for the time being. This will avoid further charges on these two accounts.

Mr Farmer was asked about a statement for the exercise bikes which have been provided by Kompan. He will arrange this and send it by email. Kompan's bill is £12,905.88, £10,754.00 excluding VAT. We have received £2,000.00 from Thomas Brewer and The Tarmac Grant is £6555.00. £1,500.00 from the Parish Council. Mr Cammack has approached the Community Centre for a £500 donation.

The funds from Tarmac have not yet been paid. Once these are received, we can pay Kompan.

VAT: It was agreed to do another VAT refund request once we have paid Kompan and then another again in April.

Mr Cammack will talk to Thomas Brewer Trust to see if they require their share of the VAT for the new lawnmower refunded together with the Allotment Association.

AOB:

The Community Centre bank requires some attention as it is extremely overgrown. The Community Centre have obtained a quote from Doug Lyne of £650.00 and have asked if the Parish Council will go halves on the cost. Mr Cammack felt that the Parish Council could pay £275.00 and the Community Centre £375.00. This was agreed and Mr Cammack will relay this information to the Chair of the Community Centre but is believed that this would be acceptable. It was agreed that the work should be mindful of the local nature and start as soon as possible.

Meeting closed 7.40 pm