

**MINUTES OF THE ST NEOT PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE  
MEETING HELD IN THE PAVILION, ST NEOT ON WEDNESDAY 23RD  
NOVEMBER 2022**

**Present:** Councillors C Smith (Chairman), H Bunt, T Thrussell, D Glanville and T Hooper.

Sue Blaxley (Parish Clerk/RFO)

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7:10pm

**1. Apologies**

None

**2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 29th November 2021**

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2021 were agreed as an accurate record.

**3. Draft Precept for 2023/2024**

**To discuss figures for the Precept for 2022/23**

The Clerk produced figures detailing the end of year accounts for 2022/2023, the current year's Precept, the Income and Expenditure as at 31st October 2022 and an estimation of expenditure until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. She also produced figures detailing a draft proposal for the Precept for 2023/2024. The draft precept was considered and compared with the other information provided. In terms of income and expenditure, each item listed was discussed and the anticipated income and expenditure justified. Considerable discussion took place on the allocation of earmarked reserves to specific community projects. These have been detailed on the precept figures. It was noted that inflation is currently over 10%. It was noted that there will be a deficit in expenditure over income of approximately £4,000 and that all parishioners benefit from the money that the parish council spends. In addition, it was agreed that the parish council's direct costs and essential expenditure will increase in 2023/24. It was proposed by Councillor D Glanville and seconded by Councillor T Thrussell that a formal recommendation to raise the precept by approximately 2.5% for 2023/24, taking the precept from £32,800 to £33,620, would be made to members at the next full Parish Council meeting. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

#### **4. Parish Council Rent Charges and Salaries**

**To review current Parish Council rent charges for the Pavillion, Goonzion Downs and Cott Yard and to review the expenses and salaries paid to the cleaner and clerk**

It was noted that the Clerk is paid at spinal point 33 which will increase in accordance with the NJC scales which are inflationary linked. It was noted that she is also paid administration expenses for the use of her home as an office at £25/month and for the use of her home telephone and broadband at £15/month plus pension contributions, the latter being determined by Cornwall Council. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor H Bunt that the current charge for the Pavillion at £10/session be increased to £15/session. Two councillors voted in favour of this proposal and three against. The proposal was not therefore carried. It was proposed by Councillor T Hooper and seconded by Councillor D Glanville that the current charge for the Pavillion at £10/session be increased to £20/session. Three councillors voted in favour of this proposal and two against. The proposal was therefore carried. It was noted that rent charged to the Post Office remains unaltered (it is set by the Post Office) as will the rent for Cott Yard. It was agreed that the rent charges for Goonzion Downs be increased as follows : Mr and Mrs Wilton's rent from £129.50 to £150.00 and Jane William's rent from £26.10 to £30.00. It was noted that the cleaner is currently paid £10.00/hour and it was agreed that this will be increased to £10.50/hour from April 2023. It was proposed by Councillor H Bunt and seconded by Councillor D Glanville that formal recommendations as outlined in this minute are made to members at the next full Parish Council meeting. All councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

#### **5. Date of next meeting**

To be arranged

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:45pm.