

**MINUTES OF THE ST NEOT PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD IN THE PAVILION, ST NEOT ON WEDNESDAY 27TH
NOVEMBER 2023**

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

Sue Blaxley (Parish Clerk/RFO)

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7pm

1. Apologies

None

2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 23rd November 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 23rd November 2022 were agreed as an accurate record.

3. Draft Precept for 2024/2025

To discuss figures for the Precept for 2024/25

The Clerk produced figures detailing the end of year accounts for 2023/2024, the current year's Precept, the Income and Expenditure as at 31st October 2023 and an estimation of expenditure until 31st March 2024. She also produced figures detailing a draft proposal for the Precept for 2024/2025. 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 proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor N Ball that a formal recommendation to raise the precept by 10% for 2024/25, taking the precept from £33,620 to £36,982, 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 £20/session be increased to £22/session. All councillors voted in favour of this proposal. It was noted that rent charged to the Post Office remains unaltered (it is set by the Post Office). The rent for Cott Yard will increase by 3% for Heather Taylor and Restgarth from April 1st 2024. It was agreed that the rent charges for Goonzion Downs be increased by 10% so that the rents charged will be as follows: Mr and Mrs Wilton - £165.00 and Jane Williams - £33.00. It was noted that the cleaner is currently paid £10.50/hour and it was agreed that this will be increased to £11.44/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.