

**Kennington Parish Council
Oxfordshire**

**Minutes of the Annual Finance meeting held online on
1 December 2022 at 7:30 pm**

Present:

Cllr. Baggott Cllr. Bakewell Cllr. Mrs Buckingham Cllr. Charlett Cllr. Cobb
Cllr. Feather Cllr. Ms Jempson Cllr. Patterson Cllr. Powles Cllr. Russell
Cllr. Smith

In Attendance: Anne Feather (Clerk)

1.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Cllr. Gelder

2.0 DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS – None

3.0 REVISED ESTIMATES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2022-23

3.1 The Clerk reported on the projected financial position at 1 April 2023.

General Reserves at 1 April 2022	£85,838
Ear Marked Reserves (EMR)	£98,480
Add projected income	£111,248 + £5743 £116,991
Less projected expenditure	£52,153 + £34,826 £86,979
Estimated General Reserves at 1 April 2023	£115,850
Ear Marked Reserves (EMR)	£112,324

3.2 This means that the General Reserves in 2023-24 should be approximately £115,850 allowing flexibility in planning expenditure for the next financial year, including the pavilion project.

3.3 **It was agreed that** £40,000 of 2022-23 funds be transferred to 329 – EMR Pavilion Project and £20,000 of 2022-23 funds be transferred to 324 – EMR Play equipment

4.0 BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2023-24

The Clerk presented a report giving details of budgeted income and expenditure for 2023-24 and explained the items where the budget differed from last year.

4.1 It had been assumed for draft budget purposes that the precept would be little changed so as to keep the total precept the same as 2022-23.

4.2 The Clerk had assumed nominal or no increases in some budgets, but larger increases in electricity and gas budgets together with village maintenance budgets – details were provided within Appendix 2 and 3.

4.3 Background to the Clerk’s salary and the Village Warden’s hourly wage were provided in Appendix 4.

4.4 Members of the Committee agreed estimated figures in Appendix 2, except the following:
4136 (Grant to Citizens Advice) which was increased to £900
4211 (Defibrillators) which was given no budget (due to amount in 322 EMR)
4300 (Highways Verge cutting which was increased to £4,500
4302 (Traffic Schemes) which was given no budget (due to amount in 334 EMR)
4305 (Kerb/Weed spraying) which was increased to £1,000
4306 (Bollards-verge protection) which was given no budget (due to amount in 334 EMR)
4310 (Regular Village Mtce) which was increased to £3,500
4330 (Cemetery Mtce and grass cutting) which was increased to £3,000

- 4342 (Salt bins) which was given no budget (due to amount in 326 EMR)
- 4411 (Forest Side Grass Cutting) which was increased to £1,500
- 4420 (The Links play area Grass cut) which was increased to £300
- 4429 (Playfield Road Pavilion Project) which was increased to £20,000
- 4435 (Pavilion Gas) which was increased to £400
- 4437 Playfield Rd playing field grass cutting) which was increased to £2,000

4.5 It was agreed that the following amounts from the following budget headings be transferred into Ear Marked Reserves (EMR) on 1 April 2023.

- £200 from 4320 – Litter Bins to 326 - EMR Asset Replacement
- £250 from 4341 - Notice Boards to 326 - EMR Asset Replacement
- £600 from 4355 - Benches to 326 – EMR Asset Replacement
- £1,500 from 4360 - Planned Tree Maintenance to 335 - EMR Trees
- £500 from 4415 – Forest Side BMX Dirt Track to 330 - EMR BMX refurbishment/maintenance
- £200 from 4425 – Playing Fields Litter Bins to 326 – EMR Asset Replacement
- £20,000 from 4429 – Playfield Road Pavilion Project to 329 - EMR Pavilion Project
- £500 from 4453 – War Memorial Maintenance to 333 - EMR War Memorial
- £1,500 from 4502 – Bus Shelters to 326 - EMR Asset Replacement

4.7 It was agreed that the Clerk’s salary would rise in line with the national scales. It is hoped that the new scales for 2023-24 will be published closer to the time, Council has agreed a budget of 5% to cover this rise.

4.8 It was agreed that the Village Warden’s salary would rise in line with the national scales. It is hoped that the new scales for 2023-24 will be published closer to the time, Council has agreed a budget of 5% to cover this rise.

5.0 NEW EXPENDITURE FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2023-24

5.1 The following items were suggested to be investigated for expenditure consideration in 2024-25:

- Bus Shelter fronts, preventing residents getting wet from the road whilst waiting
- Large flower planters with the village crest at Grundy Crescent and other places within the village

6.0 TO APPROVE LIST OF DIRECT DEBIT PAYMENTS

6.1 The 2023-24 list of Direct Debit payments was provisionally approved.

7.0 PARISH PRECEPT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2022-2023

7.1 The provisional council tax base for 2023-24 is £1,725.60 for Kennington Parish.

7.2 A proposal was made by Cllr. Powles not to raise, keeping it at £101,147, which was seconded by Cllr. Charlett and agreed by the majority.

£101,147 = £58.62 per annum for a Band D property
£1,725.60

Meeting Closed – 8:55 pm

Signed **Date**