



**SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of a meeting of the Resources Committee held on**  
**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 6.30 pm**

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**Present:**                      **Chairman**              **Councillor Adrian Watts**  
                                         **Councillors**        **Michael Fitch, Tim Prater & Lewis Whitnall a**  
                                         **Clerks**                **Julie Tugwood & Gaye Thomas**  
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1. **Apologies for absence:** Councillors Vicky Parsons Tracy Stephens & Guy Valentine-Neale
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None
3. **Minutes:** The Minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.  
**Proposed by: Councillor Tim Prater**  
**Seconded by: Councillor Lewis Whitnall**  
**Approved by all present.**
4. **Sandgate Park and Fremantle Road Park**  
It was noted that the wall surrounding the top of the old toilet block in Sandgate Park had now been removed and Heras fencing erected. Defects in the walls' stability had been noted and action was taken to ensure that the walls did not pose safety problems. Quotations, and options for the replacement of the wall would be sought.  
It was noted that resurfacing works to the play area of Fremantle Park would be undertaken in the drier weather.  
Maintenance costs for the two parks were discussed and it was noted that going forward there were still monies left in the budget from the Fremantle Park dowry to put towards repairs.
5. **Library Refurbishment**  
It was noted that the refurbishment of the library was nearing completion, with all costs covered within S106 and High Street Improvement Fund monies. Additional furniture and decorating works are on schedule, all furniture which had been replaced had been donated to schools, churches, and charities locally.  
It was noted with disappointment, that the courtyard above continued to have drainage problems resulting in the children's library sustaining a leak, this had delayed the fitting of the new carpet to that area.
6. **CCTV**  
It was noted that the brackets securing the CCTV equipment to lampposts needed replacement and that this costing had been included in the proposed budget (Agenda item 10). It was noted that in the past images of anti-social behaviour caught on CCTV and submitted to the police had not been acted upon, and the clerks were asked to ensure the council's dissatisfaction with this was noted by PCSOs and superior officers.
7. **Budget for 22/23**  
It was noted that the budget was on track and there did not appear to be issues that need to be address. All accounts were being published monthly to ensure full transparency.
8. **PWLB**  
It was noted that interest to the feeder funds for this account were now improving.

It was noted that the Hampshire Trust had matured and it was proposed to place the money in a 1 year bond paying 3.75% interest.

**Proposed by Councillor Adrian Watts**

**Seconded by Councillor Tim Prater**

**Agreed by all**

#### **9. Boat House update and Solar Panel Project**

It was noted that a quotation had been received to install solar panels to the Boat House and an estimation of electricity generated had indicated that over a four/five-year period, the cost of the installation would be yielded.

It was noted that as an investment that would effectively pay for itself, this project could be funded by the PWLB monies.

It was noted that this project was financially reasonable, would provide protection against electricity price changes and was also environmentally friendly.

It was noted that in the proposed new lease agreement with the tenants of the Boat House, they had agreed to pay their portion of electricity used as of 31<sup>st</sup> March. If the solar panels' project received agreement, they would continue to honour the unit price for for the electricity used on their portion of the site.

**Action: Clerk to investigate longevity of solar panels in this area**

**Action: Clerk to establish what guarantees were available for the equipment**

**Action: Clerk to establish if planning permission was necessary**

**Action: Clerk to confirm the current unit rate for electricity paid by SPC.**

**Action: Clerk to attempt to obtain a second quotation for the work**

#### **10. 2023/24 Budget Agreement**

It was noted that all budget cost lines had been reviewed and where necessary, updated or increased. Additional allowances had been made for staff costs and some capital expenditure, which would include the play equipment at Sandgate Park and the play surface at Fremantle, all subject to the approval of the council. There was also proposed budgets for CCTV brackets, plant holders at Riviera Court, and bins on the sea front.

It was noted that more revenue would be accrued for the parish, as there are now more housing units in Sandgate and there would be a little additional income for the library coffee machine, while the interest on the PWLB should rise.

#### **Precept**

The budget seeks a 1.94% increase in the precept to £98,700 based on the Sandgate Tax base figure of 2,203.12 for 2023/2024.

1.94% is a rise of Band D equivalent Precept from £43.95 to £44.80 - a rise of 85p a year, around 1.7p per week. With that precept income and the draft budget, there is a predicted surplus of £23.93 which is recommended to be added to the General Reserves.

**Proposal.** That the draft budget as circulated, and proposed precept figure of £98,700 (based on a 1.94% increase in Band D equivalent Council Tax), for 2023/24 is approved to be recommended for acceptance by the Parish Council when it meets on Tuesday 17th January.

**Proposed by Councillor Michael Fitch**

**Seconded by Councillor Tim Prater**

**Agreed by all**

(It was noted that Mr Simon Horton had been very helpful in producing these figures and thanks from the parish council should be extended.)

#### **11. Correspondence: None at this time**

**12. Information:**

It was noted that the Boat House would be painted at the end of January and this work would be paid from this year's budget.

It was noted that all legal works relating to the Boat House lease would come from this year's budget.

**13. Date of next meeting: TBC**

Signed by Chairman of Resources Committee ..... Dated .....