



- Anticipated reduction of costs for future tree works, because of recent tree inspections and tree maintenance.
- Additional £1,000 added to the library book fund, (this would be the first occasion that a book fund had been included in the budget since before Covid).

It was noted that this was a neutral budget with proposed income matching proposed expenditure. It was noted that Councillor Simon Horton was thanked for providing a comprehensive budget proposal.

It was noted that it was still to be confirmed if the parish would apply for the Seaside Award in the forthcoming year.

It was also noted that the Solar Panel initiative funding would come from the PWLB funding, and that the income would be returned to this fund with a budgetary line provided for this matter. It was anticipated that at existing utility rates, the initial outlay would be recovered over the next four years.

## 6. Npower renewal

It was noted that with the installation of CCTV equipment, the parish was required to pay for the electricity for these items. Payment for this electricity would be governed by an Unmetered Supply Agreement with an electricity company. It is noted that acquiring a company who would be willing to provide this account for what is termed a 'mini business', was problematic, and the current provider Npower would not renew the present contract. The clerk had identified another company, and it was hoped that a suitable quotation would be received by the week's end.

It was proposed that the clerk be delegated the authority to approve a new contract subject to agreement by Councillors Tim Prater and Simon Horton

**Proposed by: Councillor Tim Prater**

**Seconded By: Councillor Simon Horton**

**Agreed by all.**

## 7. PWLB

It was noted that an in-depth summation of the PWLB investments would be given over the next few months, but broadly it was matching income and expenditure due to the increased interest rates. It was noted that the Buckinghamshire account had been given the appropriate 120-day notice and that in January a new high interest account would be sought.

**Proposed by: Councillor Micheal Fitch**

**Seconded by: Councillor Tim Prater**

**Agreed by all.**

## 8. Solar panels

The installation of solar panels on the Boat House has been investigated by the clerk, and three companies have tendered for this project. It was noted that the clerk recommended the smallest of the companies who it was felt provided the most suitable system within the structural restrictions of the Boathouse roof.

It is estimated that this system will produce 50% of the running costs of the Boathouse/Toilets. The quotation included two six monthly visits to the system to clean the product, and undertake safety checks, particularly as the system would be positioned above several chairs and tables outside the café. If this company were to be approved, it is the suggestion that the service checks be continued after the 12-month period would be reached.

The proposed system allowed full access for both the parish and the company to monitor the system. It should be noted that whoever gained the contract, additional costs would be accrued for the system to be run at its optimal capacity in terms of monitoring and data gathering. There would also be significant costs to obtain an amendment of the lease from FHDC and possibly for a planning application.

It was proposed to agree with the clerk's recommendation, and this would be formally taken for approval to Full Council on 27<sup>th</sup> November.

**Proposed by: Councillor Michael Fitch**

**Seconded by: Councillor Tim Prater**

**Agreed by: 3**

**Abstention from vote: Councillor Simon Horton**

## **9. Library Alarm**

It was noted that the library alarm system had reached the end of its natural life and needed to be replaced. Three local companies were contacted and two provided quotations from which the clerk had provided a recommendation.

It should be noted that the actual cost to the parish would be 50% of the cost of the alarm, Libraries, Registration and Archives meeting the other 50%, and KCC would provide free monitoring of this.

Additionally, the cost of four Panic Alarms would be met from COVID grant monies which are held within designated reserves, and which could legitimately be drawn down as the grant was provided for expenditure for safeguarding purposes. The cost of the Panic Buttons would not be included within the cost of the alarm system, but this would be a good opportunity whilst the works are being undertaken to install some further enhancements.

It was noted that an additional alarm system budgetary line would be needed for inclusion on the budget forecast.

It was proposed to agree with the clerk's recommendation, and this would be formally taken for approval to Full Council on 27<sup>th</sup> November.

**Proposed by: Councillor Tim Prater**

**Seconded by: Councillor Simon Horton**

**Agreed by all.**

## **10. RFO position**

It was noted that the present RFO / Deputy Clerk, Mrs Julie Tugwood, would be leaving the parish's employ on 30<sup>th</sup> November and that Sandgate Parish Council wished her well in her retirement. There would be an interview held for a possible replacement on 27<sup>th</sup> November, and it was noted that the candidate had been the sole applicant for the position. It was further noted that both Councillors Tim Prater and Gary Fuller knew the candidate and so would not be on the recruitment panel.

## **11. Correspondence:**

None at this time

## **12. Information:**

None at this time

## **12. Date of next meeting: 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

**Meeting finished at 7.12pm.**

Signed by Chairman of Finance Committee ..... Dated .....

Chairman's initials and date