



Finance Committee

Minutes of the Finance Committee of Charlbury Town Council

held on Wednesday 13th November 2024
At 8pm in the Green Room, Memorial Hall

Present: Gary Harrison, Peter Kenrick, Tom Greenwood, Ed Bradbury, Jack Wells, Tony Veters, Town Clerk: Lisa Wilkinson

1. To elect a chair to the Finance Committee
Gary Harrison was elected as chair for this financial year.
2. **Apologies for Absence** were received from Arthur Sinclair, Liz Reason and Frances Mortimer,
3. **Declarations of Interest:** Ed Bradbury declared an interest in the grant applied for by Wychwood Forest Trust.
4. **To consider increasing annual sinking fund amount for hard surface maintenance (tennis courts)**
It was agreed to increase the annual amount to £3000.
5. **To consider community grant applications**
As the Town Council no longer has General Power of Competence, there is less money available for community grants (under Local Government Act 1972 S137). The following contributions were agreed:

Organisation	Amount requested	Reason	Agreed contribution
Community Workshop	280	door canopy for entrance	280
Thomas Gifford Trust	1960	grass cutting and tree work	500
St Mary's #1	1000	repair of clock	1000
St Mary's #2	1200	grass cutting	0
Youth Football club	1500	community centre hall hire for training	1200
Preschool #1	700	storage	0
Preschool #2	897.2	front garden	600
ATIC	250	Admin expenses incl donation to Volunteer Link-up Volunteer social and information share	250
Riverside	5000	security	2500
Youth Club	4260	contribution to Youth ambassador	2000

*note alternative proposal

Cricket club	1000	tables and chairs for club and community use	750
Scout group	750	removal of asbestos from scout hut	750
Wychwood Forest Trust	2000	ongoing management	1500

Total requested £20,797.2 Total granted £9,330

* It was agreed that the youth club request for a grant would be added to the budget as a Youth Council item. This had previously been discussed with the new Youth Ambassador and members of the Youth Club Steering Group.

6. To consider the budget for Financial Year 2025-2026

The draft budget was examined line by line by the committee. The committee agreed a budget to recommend to the Town Council. Total income £158,820, total expenditure £152,820. It was agreed to place £6000 in reserves in line with the external auditor's request to increase the reserve level.

7. To agree amount of precept to recommend to the Town Council

It was agreed to recommend an increase of 2.84% in the precept to the Town Council in order to balance the budget (just above inflation). This equates to £2.99 per year per Band D household. It was noted that these are not the exact figures – the exact figures cannot be calculated until the tax base has been received from West Oxfordshire District Council.

Meeting closed: 9.30pm