

Chesterton Parish Council

Minutes of Finance Committee Meeting At Chesterton Community Centre 9.30am, Tuesday 10th December 2024

DRAFT

Councillors Present: Johnathan Chavda, Andrew Thomas.
In attendance: Mike White (RFO) and Brian Inglis (Clerk)

1. **To Receive Councillor Apologies for Absence**
Cllr Tony Thompson sent apologies.
2. **To Approve and Sign the Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting on 22nd October 2024**
It was resolved that the minutes were a true record of the meeting and were duly signed by Cllr Johnathan Chavda.
3. **To agree and sign Bank Balance to Receipts and Summary schedule for November 2024**
Having been circulated and scrutinised, this was agreed and signed.
4. **To Review and Approve November 2024 invoices**
The invoices having been previously circulated for scrutiny, were approved.
5. **Update on progress from previous minutes**
None
6. **Geminus Road Adult and Junior Play Area**
Cllr Chavda reported that he had received quotations from 4 companies who would be able to take over the contract for inspection and necessary repairs of the play equipment, which he would circulate for consideration with a decision to be made as soon as possible and proposal made to main council. It was agreed that a reconciliation of the existing account with Playgrounds Unlimited would be desirable, and to close it down. Cllr Chavda to provide wording to the Clerk to write and request this (Action – Cllr Chavda)
7. **Banking**

RFO Mike White reported that the new savings account with Unity Trust Bank is now open. It was RESOLVED to close the existing deposit account with Barclays (Action – RFO Mike White)

8. **Car Park**

8.1 It was noted that the recent works to replenish the gravel and weed the Car Park had been carried out to a good standard.

8.2 Following an incident where a car had been driven on to the playing field, it was agreed to look at the possibility of installing a knee rail or similar fencing between the playing field and the car park to avoid it happening again. The Clerk to invite suppliers to advise and quote for a solution along these lines. (Action – The Clerk)

9. **The Shield Group (grass cutting etc)**

Following an approach from them, The Clerk will contact this supplier to get a comparative quotation for grass cutting in the village in 2025. This was agreed. (Action – The Clerk)

11. **CIO Discussion**

Councillors discussed the subject of the lease agreement which is in place between the Parish Council and the CIO, and the ongoing process of establishing clear roles and responsibilities between the two parties, noting some frustrations in finalising these. There is dissatisfaction on both sides regarding elements of the lease, and the most recent update took place in 2020. A fully executed, signed copy cannot be found, which adds to the overall confusion.

It was agreed to place a motion on the agenda for the next meeting of full council, along the lines of *“To discuss with the Chesterton Community Partnership, the possibility of the Parish Council taking over the management of Chesterton Community Centre”*, with finalised wording to be provided to The Clerk in good time for the publishing of the agenda. (Action – All)

12. **Budget Planning and Precept Calculation**

RFO Mike White gave a report on his initial workings on the FY2025/26 Parish Council budget, with calculations on projected Precept Calculation discussed at some length. Following the next meeting of Finance Committee, RFO will circulate advanced budget workings and precept proposals in his monthly report to councillors in advance of the next meeting of full council, when the DRAFT Budget and Precept Claim will be finalised. (Action – RFO).

The meeting closed at 10.44am

Date of next finance meeting was set as Thursday 9th January 2025, at 9:30am

Signed as agreed

Cllr J Chavda (Chair)

Date

**Agreed Monthly Finance Meeting Dates 2024/25, commencing 9.30am
(Tuesdays in the Colin Board Room at Chesterton Community Centre)**

9th January

28th January

25^h February

25th March