

Minutes of a Meeting of Comberbach Parish Council's Finance Committee held on Tuesday 8 August 2023

Present

Councillor Johnston (in the Chair)

Councillors:

Cameron

McDermott

Ryder

Denise French (Clerk)

Stephen Penwill (RFO)

The Meeting started at 4.00pm.

1. Apologies for absence

None.

2. To receive Members' Declarations of Interest

None

3. Minutes

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance Committee held on 4 January 2023 be approved as a correct record.

4. Quarter 1 Budget Review

The Committee considered the Quarter 1 budget review. The RFO reported that some of the year-to-date figures reflected the total for the year rather than for the first quarter. There was no spend against the maintenance budget but some costs had been incurred and would show in the second quarter. The figure for the Fete showed the total spend for the financial year unless the Parish Council paid the deposit during the current year.

RESOLVED: That the Quarter 1 budget be received.

5. Budget for replacement equipment

The Clerk and the RFO explained that the budget did not currently allocate any funds towards replacement office equipment. The Clerk's laptop was over 3.5 years old and the printer was over 6 years old. The RFO's laptop was 2 years old. The Clerk also had a Council phone; the handset had been purchased outright but the calls were on a contract. Members supported a budget for replacement equipment.

RESOLVED: that the RFO allocate a budget for replacement equipment for the current and future years, based on a 4 year cycle for laptops and mobile phone and 6 years for the printer.

6. Recreation Area equipment

The Committee considered whether to investigate costs and options for replacing the single bay infant swing with a double unit. This could be achieved by rotating the swing unit. Members discussed a 'boat style' swing seat that was suitable for younger disabled children; it was also noted that swing seats for an adult and child to sit opposite each other were available to install. There was a budget of £5,000 in 2024/25 for replacement infant swings.

RESOLVED: that costs and options of a replacement double unit infant swing set be investigated including a boat seat suitable for young disabled children and a 'me and you' adult and child swing seat. The budget for 2024/25 for replacement infant swings be brought forward to the current year and the zip wire budget be transferred to 2024/25.

7. D Day Commemorations

The Committee considered a budget for the D Day Commemorations on 6 June 2024. The beacon for the Jubilee could be adapted to refer to D Day but Members also discussed whether it could be changed to show the name Comberbach instead so it could be used for various occasions. Councillor McDermott agreed to investigate. The Council had also discussed installing a female Tommy statue by the Memorial which the Committee supported.

RESOLVED: that a budget of £1000 be included in the budget for D Day commemorations including adapting the beacon and the purchase of a female 'Tommy' statue.

8. Future projects and funding opportunities

The Committee considered possible future projects. Members agreed to include replacement rockers and a seesaw for the Recreation Area and costs would be investigated.

It was noted that Cheshire West and Chester were promoting their 'Crowd' initiative which was a funding opportunity and various information sessions were taking place over the next few months. The Clerk agreed to recirculate the details as a reminder.

RESOLVED: that the next meeting consider future projects including a seesaw and replacement rockers along with costs and designs.

9. Date of next meeting

RESOLVED: that the next meeting take place on Tuesday 10 October at 4.00pm.

The Meeting closed at 4.50pm

Cllr Jill Johnston (in the Chair)

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