

KIDLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Exeter Hall, Oxford Road, Kidlington, OX5 1AB

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Minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee held at Exeter Hall on Thursday 15 June at 6:30pm

Present: Cllr Lesley McLean (Chair), Cllr David Betts, Cllr Ian Middleton, Cllr David Robey, Cllr Linda Ward, Cllr David Thurling, Cllr Alison Street, Cllr Danny Wright,

In attendance: Alyson Bateman – RFO, Cllrs Phil Wyse, Melanie Moorhouse, Doug Williamson, Will Easdown Babb.

Apologies: Cllr Alan Graham

23/PF027 Disclosures of interest – Cllr Phil Wyse declared an interest by virtue of being a Cherwell Collective Volunteer

23/PF028 The committee **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 27 April 2023 were a correct record and the minutes were signed by the Chair.

23/PF029 Finance Papers

1. Internal Audit - the committee thanked the staff for producing another clean internal audit report.
2. The Committee **recommended** that the Council approve the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) at its 29 June meeting.
3. Summary outturn report – the significant underspend against the revenue budget was noted and the RFO explained the main reasons for this – general cost savings, administrative vacancy and additional revenue from investments.
4. Capital and Reserves.
The committee approved the following changes to the Council's ear marked reserves:
 - Increase the existing Stratfield Brake EMR to £50,000.
 - Increase the existing Exeter Hall EMR by £25,000 to acknowledge increasing costs of an ageing building
 - Create a New EMR for uninsured losses such as Playground equipment (which are insured for public liability only) £24,000.
 - Create a new EMR for Communications £5,000
 - Create a new EMR for Exeter Hall Parking management £10,000.
5. It was confirmed that there is an ear marked reserve of £150k for the extension of Bicester Road cemetery and associated drainage works.
6. The provision of an electric van was discussed.
7. Provision for VAT – RFO advised that she would be re-applying to opt to Tax as recommended by external Accountants DCK Accounting. This might prove a catalyst for HMRC to generate a penalty.
8. Councillors agreed to rename EMR 334 to Major Planning Expenditure and for the costs of the Parish poll to be paid from this EMR
9. RFO will bring full statement of Capital expenditure to Council and to the next meeting of this committee.

23/PF030 The Committee agreed the Finance Calendar unchanged.

- 23/PF031** The Committee heard that an application for hire discount had been received from the group campaigning against the Botley West Solar Farm, Councillors were happy to proceed in principle but delegated the decision to the Clerk.
- 23/PF032** The committee considered two S137 grant applications
- The previous £2,500 awarded to the North Oxfordshire Foodbank but as yet unpaid would be deferred until their reserves were depleted or a specific and urgent need was identified and communicated.
 - The application for £5,000 by the Cherwell collective was discussed by the committee and specifically whether the work was primarily benefitting Kidlington residents or the wider Oxfordshire community, whether it was necessary to show support in order to obtain matched funding when existing level of greater support can already be demonstrated, level of creditors on financial statement provided suggest that with Creditors of £74k the grant would be swallowed immediately without benefit. Decision was not to award a grant until more detailed management accounts could be provided.
- 23/PF033** The List of Subscriptions paid by the Council was provided were noted and agreed with no changes.
- 23/PF034** The committee was informed that the yellow line renewal painting in High Street would take place in July. Proposed new yellow line painting would be reviewed by TAC later this month.
- 23/PF035** Future of Stratfield Brake discussion was deferred as there is a Liaison meeting at Stratfield Brake scheduled for 27 June plus a tour of the facility to which all Councillors are invited. It was agreed that drainage at Stratfield Brake would be included as an item at the next full Council meeting.
- 23/PF036** A statement from The Friends of Stratfield Brake was read by the Chair.
- The committee agreed to suspend standing orders to allow the meeting to continue.
- 23/PF037** A paper was presented to the committee regarding the OUFC plans for the Stadium development.
- Some councillors had completed the OCC online survey but concerns were raised about email validation Cllr Easdown agreed to look into this.
- All points were discussed by councillors and the most pressing areas were felt to be Parking and Traffic congestion as these were the points which most concerned Kidlington residents. Councillor Robey agreed to write to both OCC and OUFC as a clear resolution was needed as soon as possible. Once the data from the OCC survey was available a leaflet would be written to inform residents of the current status of the development and the Chair of Gosford and Water Eaton would be consulted on whether a similar leaflet would be issued to their residents. It is proposed that an **Extra ordinary meeting of Council** to discuss the outcome and current status of the project would be held on **31 August 2023**.*
- 23/PF038** The Communications working party proposed Terms of reference will be presented to Council on 29 June 2023.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.