

Answer - The reserves in total are: £147,910.60 (with £99,897.91 being allocated and the remainder not allocated). The Clerk advised this has also been included in the agenda pack for the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting.

6 DIRECT DEBIT LIST

The Clerk had circulated to all Councillors the list of direct debits the Council had which were as follows:

Cobalt Communications (phone/broadband); EDF Energy (Devoran Park electricity supply); Clearbooks (accounting software); Grenkeleasing (VOIP system); Information Commissioners Office (ICO fee); Public Works Loan Board (loan); Ricoh UK (photocopier); Southern Electric (Market Hall electricity); SSE Gas (Market Hall gas)

RESOLUTION: CLLR WOOLCOCK PROPOSED THE COMMITTEE APPROVE THE ANNUAL DIRECT DEBIT LIST, SECONDED BY CLLR BRICKELL AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7 PUBLIC WORKS LOAN

Cllr Hambly-Staite asked for clarification on the PWL interest rate and also for the Clerk to clarify the interest rates on our other bank accounts.

The Clerk had circulated the latest statement on the PWL which had a balance of £87,013.72 outstanding.

8 BUDGET 2024/25

The Clerk had circulated the draft budget and notes to accompany this. The Clerk clarified the allocated reserves and advised that the Council may wish to look at re-allocating some of the monies reserved for projects which had been agreed several years ago.

The Clerk ran through the budget lines and said that the Committee needed to make a recommendation to Full Council for the November meeting although there was still time to take the precept and budget back to the December meeting as the deadline for the precept request was the end of December.

The Committee decided to remove the weed control and election costs from the budget (Clerk to get up to date election costs) and to recommend these were funded from reserves, the weed control needed further discussion as this had been requested to be discussed for inclusion in budget by residents. £200 was removed from the bin emptying line.

It was agreed to investigate renting the small office adjoining the main Parish Council office.

It was agreed to add £700 interest into income, subject to clarification by the Clerk.

The Clerk would check with our footpath contractor his costs for the coming year. The grass cutting contractor had confirmed he would be keeping his charges the same as the current year.

There was a discussion regarding reducing the number of copies of Connect magazine and it was felt this needed to be discussed further with a view to how we communicate and market the Parish Council and the work of the Council.

It was agreed to hold a 6 month budget review at Finance & General Purposes Committee.

RESOLUTION: CLLR WOOLCOCK PROPOSED THE BUDGET AS AMENDED AT THE MEETING BE RECOMMENDED TO THE FULL COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL, SECONDED BY CLLR HAMBLY-STAITE AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

9 PRECEPT 2024/25

Leading on from the discussion about the budget, various increases were considered (between 2% and 4.5%) to minimise the precept increase but also the amount of money from reserves needed to balance the budget to ensure the reserves were not eaten into.

The recommendation made by the Committee was a 3% increase on the 2023/24 precept for 2024/25.

This would increase the precept received from Cornwall Council for 2024/25 to **£145,548.00** an increase of £4239 over the current years precept of £141,309.

The current band D property precept payment per year to the Parish Council is £69.09 raising the precept by the recommended 3% would increase this to £70.88 a year.

RESOLUTION: CLLR KEITH HAMBLY-STAITE PROPOSED THAT A 3% INCREASE WAS MADE TO THE PRECEPT TO BE RECOMMENDED TO FULL COUNCIL, PROPOSING A TOTAL PRECEPT REQUEST TO BE MADE FOR 2024/25 OF £145,548, SECONDED BY CLLR WOOLCOCK AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting moved into closed session.

The decision was made to extend the existing Grass Cutting contract with the current contractor for 2024/25.

There being no further business the meeting closed 8.32pm.