



## Downley Parish Council

### **Minutes of the Meeting of the Downley Parish Council Finance Committee held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 10:30 am**

Present: Kishor Chandarana Chairman, Moyra Lazenby, Wendy Monroe-West & Wendy Steneskog

In Attendance:

One member of the public.

Officers: G Tandy (Clerk)

#### **1) Apologies for Absence**

There were none

#### **2) Declarations of Interest**

There were none.

#### **3) Minutes**

It was **RESOLVED** that the **Minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021 be received, approved, adopted and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.**

#### **4) Public Participation Session**

It was agreed that the Clerk would issue Councillors with a map showing the lights that the Parish Council was responsible for.

#### **5) Progress Reports – scrutiny projects**

- a) **Streetlighting** – the Clerk explained he would chase Sparkx for a progress report now that people were back to work following the Christmas vacation. He would also follow up on VBR Enquiries our electrical supply contract is up for renewal & we will look to agree a new environmentally friendly structure.
- b) **Allotments** – Councillor Lazenby confirmed that she would hold a meeting of allotment holders on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at the Community Centre. A skip will

be provided for the allotments in early March, it will be sited in the car park space outside the allotments & be in place for a week. The Clerk provided a breakdown of the annual cost of the allotments to the Parish Council this totals £2840. Rental income on the allotments amounts to £1300 being 52 x £25. There is then a shortfall of £1540. Breakeven point would be achieved by increasing the rental charged on each allotment from £25.00 p.a. to £55.00 p.a. It was agreed that palatable stepped increases should be made to achieve & that the Committee should recommend to Council that allotment rents be increased to £30.00 with effect from April 2022.

- c) **Grass cutting** – Councillor Lazenby & the Clerk to meet with our gardening contractor to discuss services.
- d) **Dog bins** – Councillor Steneskog explained that while we are satisfied with the service provided by our existing contractor who empties the bins at a weekly cost of £3.25. per bin we have been approached by a competitor who offers to empty, clean & disinfect bins at a weekly cost of £2.00 representing a saving of £975 per annum. Reports on this competitor from other councils were universally positive & it was agreed that this offer should be considered by Full Council.
- e) **Waste bins** – The Clerk was seeking information from Buckinghamshire Council around standards & acceptable types of bins with a view to replacing open bins on the Common with covered bins thereby reducing spillage from the wind & animals rummaging through the refuse.

#### 6) **Proposed Budget 2022/23**

The Clerk outlined his proposed budget for 2022/2023 which was accepted by the Finance Committee for recommendation to Full Council

#### 7) Date & place of **next Meeting**

**It was RESOLVED that the next meeting of the Finance will be held at the Downley Community Centre on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April at 10:30 a.m.**

#### 8) **Closure of the meeting**

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 11:20 am

Chairman.....

Date.....