



Downley Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Downley Parish Council Finance Committee held on Wednesday 18th January 2023 at 09:30 am

Present: Councillors W Steneskog, P Brooks, K Chandarana, M Lazenby and W Monroe-West

In Attendance:
Officers: Giles Tandy (Clerk)

F23.01 Apologies for Absence

There were none.

F23.02 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

F23.03 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd December 2022 be received, approved, adopted and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

F23.04 Public Participation Session

There were no members of the public present.

F23.05 Tree works at Gosling Grove

The Clerk had requested three quotes to remove trees close to and affecting a block of garages in Gosling Grove. One request had not yielded a response and the Committee considered the quotes received. For the first costs would be £700 + VAT with an additional £420 + VAT to remove the stumps. The second quote offered costs of £500 +VAT to remove the trees and posin the stumps with eco plugs. The Committee **RESOLVED to recommend this second quote to full council.**

F23.06 Opening an instant access account for reserves

The Committee considered opening an instant access savings account to transfer reserves to and allow us to receive interest on these. It was **AGREED** to recommend

to Council that an instant access savings account be opened with our existing Bankers Lloyds Bank and reserves transferred to this. It was noted that by keeping funds within Lloyds we would not have the full protection of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme as depositors are protected up to a maximum of £85,000. For this reason alternatives should be considered subsequently. **ACTION** The Clerk was asked to contact Lloyds Bank and seek clarification around their internet banking and its suitability for our situation .

F23.07 To accept and note the bank reconciliation as at 29/12/23

Noted.

F23.08 To consider the provision of a grit bin for Gosling Grove

The Committee considered a request from a resident of Gosling Grove to provide and stock a grit bin for Gosling Grove. Unaware of a prevalence of accidents there the Committee did not wish to authorise this spend but directed the Clerk to contact the resident and suggest that a resident's association could take this onboard for the street.

F23.09 Replacing the bund at School Close

Maintenance of the bund is laborious with it requiring cutting by hand, consequently costs are greater than for mowing. Grass has taken poorly to the bund and the promised autumnal reseedling has not taken place. **Action** The Clerk was asked to write to Buckinghamshire Council and request that the bund be removed and put back as before at Buckinghamshire Council's expense. The Clerk was asked to look at the cost of replacement fencing to include bird-mouth and post fencing, such as surrounds the Common

F23.10 Reviewing the work of the Gardening contractor

The Committee reviewed the work of the gardening contractor comparing costs year on year and costs against budget. It was recognised that the contractors work to a very high standard however costs have increased over time and the frequency of work should be considered. **ACTION** it was agreed that a meeting should be held with the contractor in which his schedule of works should be considered and his advice sought as to how costs could be controlled.

F23.11 Date and place of next meeting

It was RESOLVED that the next meeting of the Finance will be held at the Downley Community Centre at 09:30 a.m. on Wednesday 22nd February

1) Closure of the meeting

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Chairman.....

Date.....

