

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
OF BERSTED PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 18:30 ON TUESDAY
26th NOVEMBER 2024, AT BERSTED JUBILEE HALL, CHALCRAFT LANE.**

Present: Cllrs. A. Van Koolbergen, A. Smith, J. Spencer, Yeates.
Clerk/RFO-D. Holcombe and Deputy Clerk -S O'Connell.

24294 **Apologies for Absence** Cllr Greenway.

24295 **Declarations of Interests**

Members were reminded that should interests arise during the meeting they should be declared at that time.

24296 **Public Session-** None.

24297 **Minutes of the Meeting of the 24th September 2024**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the 24th September 2024, having been circulated in advance, be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

24298 **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

Minute 24227-Short Term Objective for Emergency Resilience/Operation Watershed - update from Cllr Yeates who raised several questions to WSCC and the EA through the Arun Flood Forum. One is the failed culvert under Shripney Lane and the other the gullies which drain a considerable stretch of the A29 into the watercourse which leads to that culvert. Comments made from County Council were ideally this would be led on by the Parish Council and, therefore, perhaps needs to be added to our list of objectives, so that a funding source can be found.

24299 **24/25 Reserves Review**

Cllr Van Koolbergen invited Members to review the statement. After reviewing the information Members approved the statement. Clerk/RFO highlighted that there has been a recent Health & Safety meeting where a bin was identified as required and CIL monies could be used, Deputy Clerk had further comments. Chair invited Deputy Clerk to confirm colour options available. Members discussed their preference to go for black, so should recycling bins be introduced there would be less confusion. Deputy Clerk to make enquiries with Arun DC as to costings.

RESOLVED Clerk/RFO to agenda to next Full Council for approval and Deputy Clerk to contact Arun DC.

ACTION Clerk/RFO to agenda to Full Council for approval and Deputy Clerk to contact Arun DC.

24300 **Bersted Parish Council Expenditure**

The Clerk/RFO had previously circulated the current income and expenditure report for Members to approve. Clerk/RFO invited questions from Members present and highlighted the Operation Watershed costs. Deputy Clerk also gave an update on the planning application submitted to Arun DC the supporting evidence required, Cllr Yeates offered to seek assistance for the Deputy Clerk to try and move this application forward. Deputy Clerk confirmed that she has also corresponded with WSCC. Members having no further questions, approved the current Income and expenditure report.

RESOLVED to approve the current income and expenditure report.

24301 Budget 25/26- Second Draft

The Clerk/RFO presented the second draft of the 25/26 Budget to Members for consideration, Clerk/RFO explained that the draft included any recent budget changes required and updated notes, Clerk/RFO invited questions from Members present. Clerk/RFO highlighted that though there are no current budget commitments for our parish plan objectives cost centres, there are other funds possibly available, along with CIL monies that maybe utilised and she will agenda the parish plan to be reviewed again. Clerk/RFO also advised Members that she has just received notification from our current I.T providers of an over 2,000 increase in total on last year’s costs for CC18, CC19 and CC24, and she will make enquiries from other providers for comparison purposes and will bring her findings back to Council.

Members confirmed they had no further questions and requested that Clerk/RFO add this to the agenda for December and January, with formal approval in January once taxbases were known.

RESOLVED Clerk/RFO to add the 25/26 budget to Councils December and January agenda.

ACTION Clerk/RFO to add budget to be noted to Councils December’s agenda and Council for formal ratification at January’s Council meeting.

24302 Correspondence (already discussed as part of the budget discussion).

24303 Urgent Matters-None.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 19:09.

Signed **Chairman of the Committee** **Date**