

**WESTON AND CREWE GREEN PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 04 JANUARY 2024**

**PRESENT:**

Councillors: Paul Bate, John Cornell and John Densem

**23/001 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED – that John Densem be elected as Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing municipal year.

**23/002 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs Chamberlain and Lewis

**23/003 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

**23/004 EXTERNAL AUDIT 2022/23**

Councillors reviewed the External Audit report for the Weston and Basford Parish Council accounts 2022/23. It was noted that Crewe Green Parish Council had been exempt from external audit.

RESOLVED – that the external audit report be noted.

**23/005 FINANCE REPORT**

Councillors reviewed the Finance Report as at Month 09 2023/24, which contained details of a bank reconciliation, income, budgetary analysis and forecast outturn.

**23/006 STANDING ORDERS**

RESOLVED – that the Standing Orders be approved.

**23/007 RISK SCHEDULE**

RESOLVED – that the Risk Schedule be approved.

**23/008 BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2024/25**

The taxbase for the Parish Council area was 1,106.58 compared to a current amount of 1,050.50. The current Band D Council Tax was £35.37. It was noted that the Council had its precept set by Cheshire East Council as part of the Community Governance Review for the current financial year at £37,152. This had caused a financial pressure on the Council as it did not reflect the additional responsibilities of the wider Council area and inflationary pressures.

The proposed budget was in the sum of £73,357. This was much larger than the precept which would not be sustainable in future years without an increase in the precept. Given the uncertainties regarding Cheshire East funding for services, an increase in the precept would also be prudent.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the budget be in the sum of £73,357 and as appended to these minutes; and  
The precept be in the sum of £49,817.

**Proposed Budget 2024/25**

<b>Line No.</b>	<b>Items</b>	<b>Budget 24/25</b>
		£
1	Clerk's Salary	21,500.00
2	Clerk's Office expenses	2,100.00
3	Chairman's Allowance	1,100.00
4	External Audit	210.00
5	Internal Audit	300.00
6	Insurance (Parish Council)	600.00
7	Insurance (Village Hall)	900.00
8	Affiliations	150.00
9	Hall Hire	900.00
10	Cheshire Association of Local Councils	725.00
11	Stationery and Copying	500.00
12	General Village Upkeep	3,000.00
13	Travel Expenses	250.00
14	General Maintenance	2,750.00
15	Lengthsman	5,250.00
16	Neighbourhood Plan	6,000.00
17	Community Resilience Plan	1,000.00
18	Playing Field Maintenance	1,250.00
19	Planning consultation and legal fees	4,100.00
20	Legal Fees	4,000.00
21	Village Hall Maintenance	1,000.00
22	Vice-Chairman's allowance	300.00
23	Planning Chairman's allowance	1,100.00
24	Communications	2,000.00
25	Shires Payroll	500.00
26	Weston Cemetery extension	3,000.00
27	Vice-Chairman's expenses - Planning	300.00
28	Publications	2,500.00
29	Defibrillators	1,500.00
30	Banking	72.00
31	Allotments	2,000.00
32	Community Garden	500.00
33	Street Lighting - electricity	2,000.00
34	Contingency	4,000.00
	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>73,357.00</b>

NB: Lines 7 and 31 are re-imbursed.