Meriden Parish Council

The Pavilion
Meriden Sports Park
10 Main Road
Meriden
CV7 7SP

Minutes of the Finance, Governance and Personnel Committee meeting held at 6:30pm on Monday 6 January 2025 at The Pavilion, Meriden Sports Park.
Councillors Present: Cllr Hughes (Chair), Cllr Eggar, Cllr Whitehead and Cllr Murphy.
Clerk: J. McDougall.
Deputy Clerk: C. Cooper (taking minutes)
Apologies: None.
Public Attendees: None.

Min No.	Item	Action
60/24 60/24.1	**Apologies and Substitutions** None received.	
61/24 61/24.1 61/24.2	**Declarations of Personal or Prejudicial Interest**. Cllr Eggar declared an interest in the Meriden Sports Park Company. Cllr Murphy declared an interest in the Leys Lane Allotments.	
62/24 62/24.1	**Public Participation** None.	
63/24 63/24.1	**Minutes of the Finance, Governance and Personnel Committee meeting held on 11 November 2024** The minutes were agreed to be a true and accurate record and signed by Cllr Hughes. **Proposed: Cllr Hughes , Seconded: Cllr Whitehead**	
64/24 64/24.1	**Quarter 3 Financial Report** The Committee received the income and expenditure figures for Q3, and year to date. Income was anticipated in Q4 for Bloom sponsorship. The Clerk had applied for a Warm Hub grant and was awaiting a response. **Proposed: Cllr Hughes , Seconded: Cllr Eggar**	
65/24 65/24.1 65/24.2	**Budget Consultation Response Review** The Committee reviewed the consultation responses regarding the precept levy and expenditure, which demonstrated: • 23% in favour of a £1.00 - £4.00 precept increase for additional services • 27% in favour of a £5.00- £7.00 precept increase for additional services • 9% in favour of a £8.00- £10.00 precept increase for additional services • 14% in favour of a precept increase of £11.00 plus for additional services • 27% in favour of a zero rise and services to be maintained or cut The three village areas/facilities most important to residents were The Green, defibrillators and the provision of benches, bus shelters and dog bins. The	

Signed: Cllr Whitehead **Date: 10/02/2025**

	provision of an additional defibrillator by the Queen's Head was raised by the Committee and it was noted that grants were available.	
65/24.3	Consultation responses to double taxation and a precept increase to take on additional maintenance activities that were the responsibility of Solihull Council produced an average rating of 3.4, with a 5 rating being in favour of a precept increase for additional maintenance and a 1 rating not in favour; the rating of 5 received a higher number of responses than other ratings.	
65/24.4	The Committee discussed allocating funds to improve the area around The Green.	
65/24.5	Increasing consultation with residents was discussed and a drop-in session on a weekend was raised.	FGP/PTEC to progress
65/24.6	The Committee received and accepted the Budget Responses consultation report which had been issued to all members of Meriden Parish Council. **Proposed: Cllr Hughes , Seconded: Cllr Whitehead**	
66/24 66/24.1	**2025 – 2026 Budget** The Committee reviewed the draft budget for the 2025-2026 financial year and proposed the following amendments, before presentation to full Council: • £10,000.00 budget for improvements to The Green to be created • £150.00 increase to Remembrance Sunday for signage costs • £2,200.00 increase to the Christmas lights budget for additional light features (four in total) • £1,500.00 increase to small grant awards. **Proposed: Cllr Hughes , Seconded: Cllr Whitehead**	
67/24 67/24.1	**2025 – 2026 Precept** The Committee discussed the reserves held and acknowledged a projected deficit of £48,000.00 for the current financial year, to be taken from the reserves, with approximately a further £32,500.00 deficit in 2025-2026 if a 5% precept increase was applied. The external auditor had questioned the level of reserves, however a four year forecast demonstrated the reserves would reduce substantially below the threshold of 12 months operating costs set in the Reserves Policy if a 5% precept rise was maintained each year. The Committee acknowledged the importance of assessing the Parish Council finances over a longer term to ensure gradual precept increases as opposed to a one yearly assessment which could see substantial increases in later years.	
67/24.2	A financial risk assessment was discussed and the Clerk would undertake this activity.	Clerk to action

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67/24.3	The Committee discussed and calculated a 10% precept rise, equating to £5.01 for an average band D property in 2025-2026; just under 10p a week. The response to the budget consultation demonstrated the joint highest response from residents was a £5.00 - £7.00 annual precept increase to deliver additional services. It was agreed unanimously that a precept increase of 10% on an average band D property would be recommended to full Council.	Clerk to update the budget figures for full Council
68/24 68/24.1	**2024 – 2025 Asset Register** The Committee discussed the need to compile an accurate register for the Pavilion and Sports Park assets transferred from Solihull MBC, ahead of the 2024 – 2025 audit.	FGP Committee and Clerk to progress
69/24 69/24.1 69/24.2	**Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Funds** The Committee received details of unspent CIL funds for infrastructure and expiration dates. Suggestions for use were signage for the Sports Park and The Green, to be presented to full Council. **Proposed: Cllr Hughes , Seconded: Cllr Whitehead** Improved cycle racks by the shops adjacent to The Green was raised. Clerk to refer to SMBC to ascertain whether they would fund new cycle racks.	 Clerk to action
	Cllr Murphy left the meeting at 19:15.	
70/24 70/24.1	**Parish Council Sports Park Ownership** The Clerk had met with a representative from AJG Insurance to discuss insurance for the Pavilion and Sports Park as a result of a change of ownership; a Meriden Sports Park Company (MSP) Director was present. AJG confirmed MSP could continue insuring the Premises and a note of interest would be made on the Policy that Meriden Parish Council were the legal owners.	
71/24 71/24.1	**Date and Time of Next Meeting** It was resolved that the next meeting would be held on Monday 10 February at 6:30pm.	

Meeting closed at 19:41

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