

Financial Meeting Monday 13th December 2021

Mathern Village Hall

Present – Councillors D Harris (Chair), C Ovenden, M Sidwell, S Stevens, C Morton, G Page

Also present – Clerk, Jane Kelley

Apologies Cllr J Anderson, Cllr J Harris, Cllr D Merrett.

1) Review of current budget 2021/22. Discussion on year to date funds not yet spent.

All Councillors had been circulated with an Alpha Detailed Receipts and Payments schedule and an Excel spreadsheet showing 2021/22 spending -to-date.

The Clerk had also circulated a letter from the Welsh Government outlining Section 137(A) of the Local Government Act 1972 – Limits for 2020/2021.

The appropriate sum for the purposes of section 137(4) is calculated by applying the formula set out in schedule 12B to the 1972 Act.

This means that the maximum Section 137 sum for 2019/2020 increases from £8.32 to £8.41 per elector.

The number of electors in our area is 851

Councillors were satisfied with the spending to date figures and agreed that these are on track for all precept monies to be allocated as budgeted. Areas highlighted were:

- Training low expenditure due to Covid – Carried forward and none requested for 2022/23
 - Councillors expenses of £1350.00 maximum would be donated to the Platinum Jubilee if unclaimed this year by Cllrs.
 - Clerk to transfer £750.00 from village Up Keep budget monies to Grants in respect of the donation to Mounton Church repair.
 - Virement from Office equipment to be made in respect of the donation of IT costs to Mathern Village Hall.
 - Planting of the War Memorial to be completed this year from village upkeep budget
- Total £715.00

2) Budget setting 2022/2023

The three-year forecast was circulated to all councillors to help with setting the budget for 2022/2023

- It was agreed that Churchyard Maintenance (4105) would remain unchanged i.e. Mathern - £400, Mounton £200.00 St Pierre - £150.00. – Only to precept £750.00 next year.
- Clerk's salary, PAYE and pension payments will continue to be paid at the same rate and by online monthly payment at the end of the month. Any Clerk salary increases due will be discussed when advised by NALCC. Still awaiting notification of the 2021 pay award which would be backed to April 2021.
- Membership subscriptions still outstanding are to RBS software (Accounts). This to be taken from IT Costs not subscriptions.
- A detailed account of work required for the War memorial was received from C Wheeler total being 05 12 2021 Replant Chapel Lane Bed £280.00 Stain Timber fence and edging £85.00 Repaint Railings £465.00. Planting to be completed this year. Railings to be included on the three year forecast for 2023/24.
- A Quote from MCC to clean all the signs in the area was also received 30 11 21 £597.84 Clerk to write to MCC requesting when the signs were last cleaned and how often these are cleaned.
- A Quote was received for the Queens platinum Jubilee Celebration £9916.94 reduced to £4834.44 with a few amendments. It was agreed that Mathern C C would contribute £1150.00 to this event. Also contribute Cllrs expenses of £1350.00 should Cllrs opt out of this payment.
- It was noted that Cllrs expenses would reduce to £ 1050.00 in 2022/23 due to the reduction in Cllrs for Mathern Village.
- An amount of £500.00 was set aside to make a start on the Community Plan in 2022/2023. Due to Covid restrictions this will be carried forward and no more money was budgeted as Cllrs feel that this will not be completed next year due to Covid restrictions.

As per Community Council policy, grants will be allocated at meetings in December, February, May and August. Unallocated grant monies for 2021/2022 will be distributed at the February 2021 meeting so that a nil sum is carried over.

Cllr C Ovenden felt very strongly that Community Council should not need to budget for drain clearance as this is something that each house holder pays towards in their Council tax.

- 3) Review of General Reserves – Virement for Mounton Church Grant Paid in December 2021 or use Community Solar Farm Grant Monies.

If was agreed that the no less than 25% and no more than 50% of our annual precept to be kept as a reserve. This would ensure that we can administer salary to the Clerk and pay our insurance, IT costs and empty the dog bins for a minimum of 6 months should MCC be late paying our precept monies or withhold them for any reason.

Clerk has sort confirmation on this via One Voise Wales

- 4) Review of the 3 year forecast. To set the Precept 2022/23
This was discussed at the November meeting and finalised at this meeting.

Current Bank Balances:	HSBC Community Account	£9041.64
	Barclays Bank Deposit	£10582.16

Solar Farm Community Benefit of £1100.00 is due in April 2022.

In conclusion, Councillors agreed a Budget spend of £22700.00 for the year 2022/2023. Which represents a £700.00 increase.

Precept to be submitted to MCC by 21st January. 2022. Therefore precept to be resolved at the January meeting

Clerk to email all updated and agreed spreadsheets after this meeting to ensure that all Cllrs have up to date documents together with the up to date three year forecast.

5) Planning

DM/2021/0763 – Dean Farm Animal Sanctuary – Application for permanent on-site accommodation

The Community Council objects to the proposed proposal for the reasons set out below and would also comment that the quality of the maps provided in the application are poor..

1. The comments made by this Council in respect of application DM/2021/01728 are equally valid to this application, all relating to the expansion of the operation at Dean Farm, particularly in respect of traffic generation.
2. The adequacy and discharge location of the foul water plant which would also serve this accommodation is not deemed adequate.
3. This Council would be concerned that the siting of this ancillary accommodation could provide a precedent for further on site accommodation.
4. The siting of the caravan adjacent to the existing building could constitute a fire risk as the proposed caravan is not fire rated.

6) Payments made since November meeting

Bacs Payments

Bacs

Salary	31 11 2021	£702.56
PAYE	31 11 2021	£181.39
Stock in Ltd	06 12 2021	£56.40
Merlin Waste	06 12 2021	£67.08
Telephone	13 12 2021	£56.41

Bank Statement reconciled by Cllr M Sidwell for November

7) Any other business

Clerk to report fly tipping bus shelter Pwllmeyric and Drain clearance Pwllmeyric, Moun-ton and Lower Mathern.

Next Meeting - Monday 10th January 2022 at 7 pm at the Village Hall unless any new government restrictions are in place.

Meeting concluded at 9.10

Signed Dated