

MATHERN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Financial Meeting Monday 11th December 2023

Mathern Village Hall

Present –Cllr Matt Sidwell, Cllr Sylvia Stevens, Cllr Jayne Harris

Also present–Clerk, Jane Kelley

Apologies- Cllr D Harris, Cllr G Page

Review of current budget 2023/24. 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 2023/24 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 2024/2025.

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 2024/2025 increases from £9.93 to £10.81 per elector.

The number of electors in our area is 851

Councillors reviewed the spending –to-date figures and noted the following items: -

- Councillors annual allowance of £156.00 now exempt from tax.
- It was noted that the Solar Farm monies were not spent this year – due to no applications for assistance.
- A new budget line for Cllrs expenses for ink/ telephone/stationery etc. This to be requested via the Clerk who will purchase from Viking.
- Councillors noted the increase in dog waste collection both this year and again next year. This will be budgeted for 2024/25 – increase is 3%.

Highlighted overspends to be taken from Reserves. These are:

- Training Costs
- It Costs
- Telephone Internet

2) Review of General Reserves – and EMR Transfers

If was agreed that the no less than 25% and no more than 70% of our annual precept to be kept as a reserve. This would ensure that we can administer salary rises to the Clerk, pay our insurance, IT costs and emptying the dog bins for a minimum of 6 months should MCC be late paying our precept monies or withhold them for any reason.

Current Bank Balances:	HSBC Community Account	£21320.00
	Barclays Bank Deposit	£10598.78

Clerk to Transfer to EMR

- Drainage - £1000.00
- Community Plan - £500.00
- Village Upkeep - £1000.00

3) Budget setting 2023/2024

The three-year forecast was circulated to all councillors to help with setting the budget for 2024/2025

- 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 each month. Any Clerk salary increases due will be discussed when advised by NALCC. Clerk's current spinal point is 23 and will remain unchanged. Increased as 5% added for pension contribution.
- One quote has been received from the work highlighted from the annual Risk assessments first quote is for £1400.00 to scrap down and prepare before painting with two coats of hammarite, metal paint.
 - 5 seats some need painting some staining to repair and make good as needed prior to painting and staining.
 - Telephone box prepare and make ready prior to painting one undercoat and one gloss coat pillar box red.

Awaiting further Quotes.

- As per Community Council policy, grants will be allocated at meetings in December, February, May and August. Unallocated grant monies for 2023/2024 will be distributed at the February 2023 meeting so that a nil sum is carried over.
- Cllrs were concerned at the possible increase in Insurance premiums and budgeted for £650.00 with the proviso that any over spend would be taken from reserves.
- As we were 2 Cllrs down training and Courses heading would be amalgamated and any over spend with future Cllr Training would be taken from reserves.

Solar Farm Community Benefit of £1292.00 was paid in April 2023. Due again April 2024.

In conclusion, Councillors agreed a Budget spend of £ 23225.00 for the year . This represents no increase from last year. Workings were shown on the Excel sheet and Alpha accounts system.

Precept to be submitted to MCC by 21st January. 2024. Therefore precept to be resolved at the January meeting

Clerk to email to Cllrs all updated and agreed spreadsheets after this meeting to ensure they all have up-to- date documents. Also, an up-to- date copy of the CC's three-year forecast.

4)Planning - plus any received after Agenda issued.

DM/2023/01636 – New Canopy – Brook House Pwllmeryic –

Comments Cllrs didn't feel that the description of the proposed works – New Canopy reflect the proposed drawings.

5)New Model Stating Orders

These were discussed both Cllr M Sidwell and Cllr S Stevens has comments and amendments these to be sent to the Clerk before the January meeting so that these amendments can be made before this policy is adopted.

Cllr M Sidwell asked for a copy of the data protection policy.

6)Payments made since November meeting

Date	Payee	Amount
21 11 2023	Bank Fee	5.00
24 11 2023	Viking Stationery	83.26
27 11 2023	T Bryant (Moun-ton Grass Cutting)	150.00
28 11 2023	Salary	956.21
28 11 2023	HM Revenue	318.91
28 12 2023	J Kelley (work Home Fee)	26.00
01 12 2023	SLCC Membership	139.00
04 12 2023	O V W (training) Cllr M Sidwell	38.00
10 12 2023	Stock It Ltd	55.20
10 12 2023	Merlin Waste	91.00
11 12 2023	Wales Audit Office	200.00
11 12 2023	Rent Village Hall	18.00
11 12 2023	Telephone Internet	64.05
12 12 2023	Cllr J Harris (cup best kept garden competition)	28.00

Bank Statement for November 2023 reconciled by Cllr M Sidwell.

Consider a Grant for Monmouthshire Council Sparkle appeal –

Cllr discussed this and unanimously decided that this was outside our remit to make a donation due to the fact that it did not specifically advantage children in our community.

St Tewdrics Church had requested they attend a meeting to discuss works needed to the tower of St Tewdrics Church – Cllrs agreed that Roz Downs should be invited to the next council meeting in January.

7) Any other business for Agenda in January

Date Time of Next meeting –

8th January 2024. 7pm in small room, Mathern Village Hall.

Signed Dated