

Budget Meeting Minutes

19th December 2023 at 1 Manor Court, Herriard 7:00pm

Present: Simon Wills (Chair), John Jervoise, Lee Ratcliff, Will Cheyney, Gill Hill

1. Cllr Wills went through the HPC budget forecast showing revenues and costs for years 22/23, to 28/29 based on assumed inflation of 5.00% and insurance + salary inflation of 10%. Due to changes in the Langlies Mead development there is no longer any rental income available and this has had a major negative impact on the Parish Council's finances. Somewhat offsetting, there has been an increase in the donation from Herriard Bio Power, to £1250 a year and Cllr Jervoise agreed to chase up the Dog Training rental, where funds have not been received for 2023/24. It was agreed to retain this income for future years as the demand for such land is high and if the current incumbent does not wish to continue the likelihood of getting alternative renters is very high.. John assured the Council that HVC will continue to pay for maintenance charges for the Green + 10% admin. The Local Councillor grant of £715 has been earmarked for the new sail shade at the play area on the Green and will be spent in 2024. The council noted that the normal and restricted funds would remain positive, albeit reducing, over the next few years.
2. Clerk's wages
Tracy Crawford has continued in the role of Clerk throughout the last year, and councillors expressed satisfaction with her performance over that period. The responsibilities of the role have not altered and so it was agreed to leave Tracy on the same pay scale point on the NALC scales, albeit increasing the salary as per the latest published NALC scales (Nov 23). This will be conveyed confidentially to Tracy, to commence April 1st 2024. Councillors are grateful to Tracy for all the work she does for the Parish Council.
3. It was also agreed that the Chair/Clerk would inform the Borough Council in January not to charge a precept for the year 24/25.
4. CIL and s106
There have been two draws on the CIL monies;
A donation of £1000 to the Herriard Hub towards the renovation of the garden/seating area. A further £5490 was spent on the Green Play Area, in particular the laying of rubber mulch under the larger pieces of equipment. This has been universally well accepted by users of the play area and has much improved the wet weather condition (no longer muddy) and the softness of the ground under the equipment (rubber matting vs. soil). Both are appropriate spending for this money which has to be for village infrastructure improvements.
The remaining £6333 of CIL money has to be spent by 2026. The majority of the remaining CIL money could go towards matting at the toddler's play area gate and/or traffic calming on King John's Lane.
Section 106 money will have to be spent on what is negotiated and approved with B & D Borough Council.
5. AOB
Cllrs thanked Cllr Wills for preparing the budget forecasts.

Meeting closed at 7.30pm