

DEREHAM TOWN COUNCIL

3rd December 2024

At a meeting of the **Finance & Governance Committee** held on **Tuesday 3rd December 2024** at the Memorial Hall.

Present: Councillors S Green (Chairman), P Duigan, A Greenwood, L Monument and P Morton.

Also present: Councillor Z Flint, Town Clerk T Needham and Deputy Town Clerk J Barron.

- To receive apologies for absence.**
Apologies for absence were received from Councillor H Clarke.
- Declaration of Interest.**
Councillor A Greenwood declared that his wife is an allotment holder.
- To consider Grant Applications**
The following recommendation was made:

Organisation	Amount of Grant Applying for	Amount Recommended	Reason for Grant	Comment
Dereham Hospital (Charitable Fund)	£500	£500	4 Dementia clocks @ £175 each -to support patients dementia with time orientation anxiety.	
Dereham Meeting Point	£1000	£1000	Work on minibus which includes new sensors, seating and sign writing.	Have they considered applying for grants from surrounding parishes.
Norfolk Community Law Service	£1000	£250	To provide advice on: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reducing Debts• Benefits• Family Court System• Domestic Abuse• Immigration	Whilst sympathetic to this charity, the Town Council does already support CAB. This would be a one-off grant and would not be repeated year on year. It is suggested that they consider

				applying for grants from surrounding parishes.
Hope for Tomorrow	£1296	£650	The mobile cancer care unit have limited space, making it almost impossible to display leaflets and brochures. The proposal is to purchase smart TVs and install software that will allow information to be changed from one location to another. The TVs will play a series of digital promotional items on a continuous loop.	This would be a one-off grant and would not be repeated year on year. Have they considered applying for grants from surrounding parishes.

4. **Review expenditure against budget.**

The report on income and expenditure was presented and discussed.

5. **To consider budget estimates for 2025/26.**

The budget proposal and estimates for 2025/26 was reviewed:

The Committee recommended that the budget proposal and estimates for 2024/25 that was presented be approved subject to the following amendments in the Memorial Hall budget: Gas be increased to £10,000, Electricity increased to £40,000 and General repairs increased to £20,000.

6. **To consider 4-year project and capital budgets**

The 4-year projects and capital budgets were considered and agreed.

7. **To consider precept for 2025/26**

On considering the revenue estimates, 4-year budget and risks facing the Council.

The Committee recommended that the Precept for 2025/26 be set at £1,229,107. This would mean an increase in a Band D Council Tax of £8 per year or 4%.

8. **To consider increases in fees and charges**

It was suggested that both the Markets & Building Committee and the Recreation Committee should review their charges over the coming year.

The committee recommended the following increases in fees and charges from April 2025:
Allotments – 4%
Cemetery - 4%
Memorial Hall – 4% (To be reviewed if it affects bookings)
Markets – 1%
Assembly Rooms – 4%

9. **To review Standing Orders**
Standing Orders were reviewed with no recommended anxiety.
10. **Update on Risk Assessments**
The Town Clerk gave a verbal update on progress to reduce health and safety risks.
11. **Update on Balanced score card.**
The Town Clerk gave a verbal update on the Balanced score card and suggested that new priorities could be considered once the Cemetery Lodge was well underway.
12. **To receive the Internal Auditors Report.**
The Internal Auditors Report was received.

Chairman