

**MINUTES OF THE GROBY PARISH COUNCIL
FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, LEICESTER ROAD, GROBY, LEICESTER
ON 3rd JANUARY 2024 COMMENCING AT 5 PM**

Present: Cllr C Lincoln (Chair), Cllr L Emmerson, Cllr C Mullins and Cllr C York

Also present: Parish Clerk

F&GP/060/23-24 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr S Beck, Cllr N Clarke and Cllr T Hollick.
It was **RESOLVED** to accept these apologies.

F&GP/061/23-24 Declarations of Interest / Dispensation Requests

Cllr C York declared an interest in the Village Hall Committee as a Trustee.

F&GP/062/23-24 To approve the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 27th November 2023

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 27th November 2023 be approved and signed as a true record.

F&GP/063/23-24 Clerks Report

i. To consider quotations for a portable induction loop

Quotations had been sought for a portable induction loop for use in the Council Chamber / Office however advice received was that a portable loop would only achieve a loop listening field of approximately 1.2m² which was an insufficient range for use in Council meetings.

Quotations for a small room hearing loop, which would achieve a listening loop field of approximately 50 m², were received and it was **AGREED to RECOMMEND to Full Council** for the purchase of a 'Small Room Hearing Loop System' at a cost of £137.00

ii. To note the CPI for November 2023 and to confirm the Groby Village Hall annual rent charges from 1st January 2024

Correspondence from the Groby Village Hall Committee in relation to the annual rent review was received. The CPI for November 2023 was confirmed as 3.9%.

The annual rent increase for 2024 was confirmed as 4.4% (Nov2023 CPI 3.9% + 0.5%) with the annual rent due from 1st January 2024 increasing to £2,265.48. This was **NOTED**.

iii. Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council Invoice in relation to the May 2023 Elections.

An invoice for £10,568.95 had been received from HBBC for the recharge of electoral services for the May 2023 elections.

It was **AGREED** for the Clerk to contact HBBC to query the invoice, and in particular to request that the invoice be split to separate the costs between Groby and Field Head Ward and to query the percentage split that had been applied to costs which had been expected to be shared with the Borough Council Elections taking place at the same time.

F&GP/064/23-24 To receive and discuss correspondence from Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council confirming Groby Parish Council's Tax Base for the 2024-24 Parish Precept

Confirmation was received from Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council that the tax base figure for 2024/25 for Groby Parish is set at 2,640.5. This represents a reduction of 12.3 from the 2023/24 tax base figure.

F& GP/065/23-24 To discuss and consider the Draft Budget for 2024-2025

The draft budget (version 3) for the financial year 2024-2025 was included in members' packs. The worksheets had been revised following discussions at the previous F&GP committee meetings and also to include budgetary requests from the Estates Committee.

The draft 2024-25 budget was reviewed alongside the accompanying notes and the following discussed:

- Groby Juniors Permit Fee
- Salaries Budget and Estates Committee request for an Apprentice / Trainee
- New Council Website set up costs
- Additional contingency funding
- Additional budget for External Auditor costs which are currently unknown
- Elections Line Budget (in light of the May 2023 Election Recharge Costs)
- Tree works budget – keep at same level as 2023-24
- Professional and Legal Fees – keep at same level as 2023-24
- Neighbourhood Plan budget
- Events budget
- Consideration of the current level of General Reserves

Further consideration of the 2024-25 Budget and Precept requirement were deferred to the next meeting.

F&GP/066/23-24 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is to be held on Monday 8th January 2024 at 5pm.

The meeting closed at 6.30 p.m.

Signed:
Chairman

Date: