

Minutes of the Meeting of  
Didmarton Parish Council  
Held 29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2022  
Didmarton Village Hall

Members present: - Cllrs J Pearce, J Hammond, R Goodwill, H White, C Rogers, H Turner, S Hewlett  
Officer: -Clerk Fiona Thornton.

**22/245.Apologies for Absence**

Cllr C Rogers  
Glos CC S Hirst

**22/246.Declarations of Interest under the Localism Act 2011**

None

**22/247.Reports from County Councillor S Hirst on matters relating to the Parish**

None

**22/248.Reports from CDC Councillor R Morgan on matters relating to the Parish**

None

**22/249.Confirm Minutes of meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

Decision: proposed by Cllr J Hammond and seconded by Cllr R Goodwill agreed by all the minutes were approved.

**22/250.Finance**

- a) Payment of accounts
- F Thornton – quarterly clerk fees £800
- Hathaway Gardenscapes – monthly maintenance contract (30.09.22) £225  
(31.10.22) £260

Decision: proposed by Cllr R Goodwill and seconded by Cllr H White agreed by all the payments were approved

- b) CIL – this council has received £85.45 in respect of Grange Farm Knockdown. CIL money is to be invested in local infrastructure and must be spend within 5 years of receipt.

**22/251.Planning Matters**

- a) Applications for consideration
- 22/01706/FUL Full Application for Erection of rear sunroom extension, incorporating existing log store at The Old Laundry 13 The Street Didmarton – No comments
- b) Response from CDC re: planning process emailed to all members

**22/252.Correspondence/Communication with Parish Council**

- Hegdehog highway project (\*)
- Community Support Officer for Town and Parish Councils (\*)  
(\* ) emailed to councillors.

**22/253.Update on election costs**

Election costs will be charged for contested Parish and Town Council elections  
Parish and Town Councils should therefore include these costs in their precept from 1 April 2023. All costs are estimates based on previous elections and current printing and postage costs.  
These may change between now and May 2023 due to increases in costs such as postage.  
By-election costs set out the total cost of an election in each Parish/Town outside of the ordinary 4-year termly elections.  
If when a by-election is held, it is shared with another type of election on the same day, costs will be shared between the elections taking place.

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Cotswold District Council decision to recharge election costs:

**Ordinary elections**

May 2023 50% of costs

May 2027 100% of costs

**By-elections**

From 1 April 2024 50% of costs

From 1 April 2025 75% of costs

From 1 April 2026 100% of costs

For Didmarton Parish the estimated costs are: -

Total cost of election for combined area £1002.67 Total cost for parish council £514.33 50% charge for May 2023 £257.17

Total cost for a by-election £1630.25

**22/254.Council to set budget and precept for 2023/24**

<u>DIDMARTON PARISH COUNCIL - PRECEPT CALCULATION 2023/24</u>				<u>DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION AND AGREEMENT</u>				
<u>ESTIMATED YEAR END 2022/23</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>SPEND</u>	<u>ESTIMATE</u>	<u>PRECEPT 2023/24</u>	<u>PRECEPT</u>	<u>EARMARK</u>	<u>GRANTS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>TO 31.10.22</u>	<u>31.03.23</u>		<u>2023/24</u>	<u>BALANCE</u>		<u>BUDGET</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
STAFF COSTS	2,600.00	1,600.00	3,120.00	STAFF COSTS	3,120.00			3,120.00
SUBSCRIPTIONS	150.00	111.68	112.00	SUBSCRIPTIONS	130.00			130.00
INSURANCE	600.00	413.75	414.00	INSURANCE	450.00			450.00
AUDIT FEES	100.00	60.00	60.00	AUDIT FEES	100.00			100.00
S137 PAYMENTS	300.00	0.00	0.00	S137 PAYMENTS	200.00			200.00
COMMUNITY PROJECTS	14,523.00	7,350.00	7,350.00	COMMUNITY PROJECTS	3,000.00	7,350.00		10,350.00
VILLAGE GENERAL MAINTENANCE	2,800.00	1,835.00	2,800.00	VILLAGE GENERAL MAINTENANCE	3,300.00			3,300.00
WEBSITE	260.00	0.00	160.00	WEBSITE	100.00	100.00		200.00
PWLB	2,658.00	1,328.63	2,658.00	PWLB	0.00			0.00
				ELECTIONS	2,000.00			2,000.00
ROOM HIRE/ADMIN	237.00	35.00	35.00	ROOM HIRE/ADMIN	135.00			135.00
DEFIBRILLATOR	200.00	0.00	0.00	DEFIBRILLATOR	300.00			300.00
GATEWAY PROJECT	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	GATEWAY PROJECT - RESERVE		2,000.00		2,000.00
WAR MEMORIAL	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	WAR MEMORIAL		1,000.00		1,000.00
GENERAL RESERVES	6,667.00	0	0.00	GENERAL RESERVES		6,936.00		6,936.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>34,095.00</b>	<b>12,734.06</b>	<b>16,709.00</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>12,835.00</b>	<b>17,386.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>30,221.00</b>
<b>CALCULATION</b>								
Opening balance 01.04.2022			34,095.00	PRECEPT SUM 2022/23	12,645.00			
Less projected year end spend			16,709.00	PRECEPT SUM 2023/24	12835.00			
Estimated closing balance 31.03.2023			17,386.00	% INCREASE	1.50%			

The Clerk reported that the council tax base for 2023/24 is 196.9. Therefore, the decrease in precept is -0.75% which will be shown on council tax demands

**Decision:** Proposed by Cllr R Goodwill and seconded by Cllr H Turner the precept sum was set at £12,835 and the council budget for 2023/24 was set at £30,221. Agreed by all.

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**22/255.Council to consider funding for a disabled access and associated works to the churchyard pathway**

(for background information this is what NALC have said)

The Local Gov Act of 1894 Sec6(1) & Sec 8, details powers for a parish council which are to:

- Hold & manage parish property and do any works including to maintain and improve it and contribute to expenses (*but NOT property relating to affairs of the church or held for an ecclesiastical charity*).
- **Exceptions**

As is often the case, there are specific exceptions which came about as a result of the Local Gov Act 1972. These are:

- **Sec 215 LGA 1972 - allows a council to maintain a closed churchyard.**
- **Sec 214 (6) LGA 1972 - allows a burial authority to contribute to anyone else providing a cemetery (eg church, temple, synagog.)**

NALC are saying that they think the *general* prohibitions of the 1894 Act about not providing financial help for church property, are over-riden by the *specific* powers relating churchyards / cemeteries in the later laws made under LGA 972.

**Decision:** proposed by Cllr R Goodwill that council support this project with the sum of £1000. Cllr H Turner amended this proposal that council match fund to the maximum sum of £2000. The amendment was seconded by Cllr S Hewlett. Vote 6 in favour and none against. The amendment was carried.

**22/256.Items to report**

(Items can be discussed but members can make no decisions)

- Clerk has contacted Glos CC speed watch to apply for mobile VAS device
- Pothole in Starvale Lane – 2 parishioners have punctured tyres. Clerk to report
- Footpath at rear of St Arilds Road – parishioners wary of using the path due to lose horses. Clerk to contact the Estate Office
- PROW sign at Creephole by Highfield House - stake is broken and requires a repair
- Dyddi – concerns were raised that items submitted by the parish council for inclusion are not being published. Cllrs S Hewlett and J Hammond to take this matter to the next DVHCC meeting

**22/257.Date of next meeting/s and timetable to next elections**

- The local election will be called at the end of March, but the term of office for existing councillors is until the 4<sup>th</sup> day after the election, when the newly elected councillors take over.  
The AGM of the parish council must take place within 14 days of the election.
- An annual parish meeting must be held each year between March 1<sup>st</sup> and June 1<sup>st</sup> as this is a meeting of a body separate from the Parish Council the date is not affected by the Parish Council election cycle. A Parish Meeting is a meeting of where people of the parish may speak about parish matters on the parish meeting agenda

Agreed dates for next meetings

- Next ordinary meeting of the parish council 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023
- Annual Parish Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023
- Annual General Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Signed .....

Date .....