

Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance Committee of Kirby Cane & Ellingham Parish Council on Monday, 12th December 2022 at 7pm in Kirby Cane Memorial Hall

Present:

John Cook Lesley Lodge Kerry Mallard Julie Pickering
Michael Skipper Iain Wright
Also the clerk to the council, Jane Love.

1. To receive apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from James Lally.

2. To receive declarations of interest from members on items on the agenda, and any requests for a dispensation on those interests:

John Cook and Michael Skipper were trustees of the Kirby Cane Memorial Hall, Kerry Mallard was a trustee of the Ellingham United Charities, Iain Wright was a trustee of Kirby Cane Charity and John Cook also had a non-pecuniary interest in Ellingham United Charities.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting on 13th December 2021:

The minutes of the meeting on 13th December 2021 were agreed to be correct and were signed by the chairman.

4. To consider applications for Parish Council funding for 2023/24:

Applications had been received from both Kirby Cane PCC and Ellingham PCC and councillors resolved to give each church £850 for maintenance of the churchyards. The organisation behind Tidings parish magazine had requested support but had not requested a definite sum, and had not put the request in writing – councillors asked the clerk to revert to the editor of Tidings to request a written application. The Ellingham Football Club was making efforts to revive its team, and councillors resolved to retain £300 in reserve for the club. A nominal amount of £1000 was put in the budget for costs for the car park project, but the intention of the parish council remained that construction costs for the car park should be covered by grant funding. No other requests for funding had been received, but the council agreed to maintain a “contingency” reserve in the budget to allow for emergency requests for funds by any of the village organisations, upon presentation of the most recent accounts available.

5. To consider budgeting for an event to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III:

Councillors decided to allocate £500 for a celebration event, probably to be held on Sunday, 7th May 2023.

6. To discuss in detail the Parish Council’s budget for 2023/24:

The councillors and clerk went through the draft budget in detail and some amendments were made. The clerk was asked to check whether it was possible to pay each councillor a flat amount of £20 per annum towards administration expenses. The sum of £400 was allocated for expenses for a summer party, and the clerk was asked to check with the new supplier of toilet units about the charge for the usual booking for the Easter and summer school holiday periods. On the basis of the income and expenditure in the draft budget, a small increase in the precept was anticipated, and a recommendation of a precept request of £22,000 would be made at the meeting on 16th January 2023 when the budget would be presented for adoption and a final decision on the precept would be made. Due to an increase in the tax base, this small increase amounted to a 1p daily increase in the amount of money each Band D household would pay during the forthcoming financial year.

7. To receive items for information:

Cllr Mallard mentioned an initiative for faster broadband in the area, and would find out further details for the next meeting.

8. To receive items for the next agenda:

Budget and precept confirmation, faster broadband, car park lease.

9. Date of next meeting – Monday, 16th January 2023, 7pm

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.19pm

Signed.....
Chairman

Dated.....