

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE of BERINSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL held at 7 p.m. in the Pavilion Lay Avenue, Berinsfield on Monday 20th November, 2023

Present Councillor P. Bridge
Councillor S. Henry
Councillor Mrs. A. Jones
Councillor D. Scate
Councillor S. Scott-Ely

Also in attendance A. Loveland, Clerk to the Council

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Councillor Bunyan
2. **Election of Chairman.** It was proposed by Councillor Scott-Ely, seconded by Councillor Henry and AGREED that Councillor P. Bridge should be Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee for the year 2023-24.
3. **To receive the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 20th March, 2023.** The contents of the Minutes of the meeting held on 20th March 2023 were noted by the Committee.
4. **To receive details of the income and expenditure to date.** Details of the expenditure to the 31st October, 2023 had been circulated to Members of the Committee, together with the predicted expenditure to 31st March, 2024. The Committee noted the information.
5. **To receive draft proposals for the budget for the financial year 2024-25.** A copy of the draft proposals for the budget for the financial year 2024-25 had been circulated to all members of the Committee for consideration.

The recommendations made by the Open Spaces Committee at its meeting held on 11th September, 2023, were taken into account when preparing the draft budget, as follows :-

Restructure the crowns of 4 Poplar trees on the recreation ground	£3,800
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Include a sum to engage an Architect/Building Surveyor to investigate if internal alterations could be carried out at the pavilion in order to make better use of the space	£5,000
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The Committee considered that it would be beneficial to continue to use the mobile CCTV units and that the Parish Council's ground maintenance contractors should be asked to take over monitoring them on a regular basis. For this purpose, the sum of £500 was included in the budget.

6. **Fees for 2024-25** The Finance Committee reviewed the schedule of fees charged for the Pavilion, Burial Ground and Allotments and it was AGREED to recommend that the fees should be increased for 2024-25 as follows :-

PAVILION

Berinsfield Teams/Organisations

**Fees with effect from 1.4.24
plus VAT @ 20%**

	Net	Vat	Total
Football matches boys/girls	£45.00	£9.00	£54.00 per day
Football matches men/women	£68.00	£13.60	£81.60 per match

Friendly matches to be charged at half of the fee.

Hire of meeting room & kitchen (Minimum hire of 2 hours)	£30.00	£6.00	£36.00 per hour
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Outside organisations

Football matches	£100.00	£20.00	£120.00 per match
Hire of meeting room & kitchen (Minimum hire of 2 hours)	£30.00	£6.00	£36.00 per hour

**BURIAL GROUND Charges apply to residents of the Parish of Berinsfield.
Double fees apply for non-residents VAT does not apply to the purchase of graves or
interments.**

Purchase of Grave for person over 12 years of age
(immediate interment or reservation of adjoining grave on 100 year lease)

Purchase of single grave	£625.00
Purchase of plot in cremated remains section for interment of ashes (single or double depth)	£310.00

Interment in a purchased grave	£450.00
Interment of ashes in a purchased plot	£210.00

Purchase of Grave and interment of still born baby or child up to 12 months	No charge
Purchase of Grave and interment for child 1 year - 12 years	No charge

Fees for Erection of all Memorials in Burial Ground

**Fee with effect from 1.4.24
plus VAT at 20%**

	Net	VAT	Total
Headstone or tablet book	£275.00	£55.00	£330.00
Kerbing, including headstone	£450.00	£90.00	£540.00
Flat stone or book over ashes plot	£250.00	£50.00	£300.00
Additional inscription	£110.00	£22.00	£132.00
Addition of kerbs to existing headstone	£300.00	£60.00	£360.00

ALLOTMENT

Rent per plot with effect from 1.4.25	£60.00
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7. **Precept for 2024 -25.** The Finance Committee considered the estimated income and expenditure in the draft budget for 2024-25 and AGREED to recommend that the Parish Council should increase its precept for 2024-25 to £145,500 in order to provide services in the village.

8. **Utility Bills.** The Committee was informed by the Clerk that the contract with British Gas for the pavilion would be due for renewal early in 2024 and a copy of the latest account was circulated to the Committee for information. A copy of the electricity account from SSE was also circulated to the Committee and it was AGREED to recommend that the Clerk should be asked to carry out research to try and obtain better rates from alternative suppliers.

9. **Salaries.** The Committee was informed that the National Association for Local Councils has been informed by the Local Government Association that the National Joint Council for Local Government Services has reached agreement on rates of pay applicable from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024. The recommendation is that the pay increase should be back dated to 1st April, 2023. The Finance Committee AGREED to recommend that the following increases should be implemented in the December payroll and be backdated to 1st April, 2023.

	Current rate	Rate with effect from 1 st April 2023
Pavilion Caretaker	Grade 4 £11.01 per hour	Grade 4 £12.01 per hour
Clerk to the Council	Grade 12 £12.73 per hour	Grade 12 £13.73 per hour

10. **Date of next meeting – to be arranged.**

