

CAPEL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 02 SEPTEMBER 2024 IN CAPEL PARISH HALL

Present: Mr Salter, Mr McLachlan, Mr Ball, Mrs Schryver and the Clerk.

1. **Apologies:** Mrs Dale
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None
3. **Matters Arising:** None
4. **Questions from Members of the Public:** None
5. **Profit and Loss to 31 August 2024:**

31 August 2024	NS&I Reserve Account	£610.89
31 August 2024	NatWest Reserve Account	£89,10285
31 August 2024	NatWest Current Account	£95.14

Mr Salter addressed the meeting stating that there is currently 53% of the budget left. There has been increased spending on parish maintenance. The wet weather appears to have encouraged extra growth, and the Parish Council has a duty to maintain areas for public safety. It is hoped that all the work undertaken during the summer months will mean the autumn and winter will require less tree and grounds maintenance.

The second half of the precept is expected this month and there is approximately £3,000 VAT to be reclaimed. There is also an easement of £5,000 still outstanding.

The NatWest Reserve Account is yielding a high interest which is welcome. It was agreed that funds should continue to be earmarked for

- Public Works Loan.
- Solar panels
- Solar activated speed limit signs
- HMRC Employers NIC payments,
- Trig Street project
- Capel church memorial garden.

6. **Financing refurbishment of telephone boxes Capel and Coldharbour**

Enquiries had been made for the complete refurbishment of the telephone boxes in Capel and Coldharbour. Both boxes have been purchased with the Coldharbour box currently being used as a cycle repair hub. After repair, the Capel box will be used to house a defibrillator.

The repairs must be undertaken by an approved contractor and the total cost to repair both boxes is likely to be in the region of £5,000.

It was agreed that these boxes are part of the villages heritage and should be preserved. The Finance Committee unanimously agreed to authorise these repairs. The Clerk will arrange for refurbishments to begin.

7. **Proposal to increase hourly rate hall hire.**

The Finance Committee was made aware that the Memorial Hall will increase its hall hire rates from 1 October 2024. It has always been agreed that both halls would advertise comparable charges. These charges need to be implemented to cover the increase in utility charges.

The following increases will be introduced for the Parish Hall from 1 October 2024:

	Standard Rates	Rates for Regular Users/Parish Residents
Weekday	£23.00 per hour	£19.50 per hour
Weekend including Friday evenings	£26.00 per hour	£22.50 per hour
Childrens parties – up to 4 hours	£75.00	£75.00
Extra hours	£17.50 per hour	

Proposal to increase allotment subscriptions:

Due to the increase in water charges, the Finance Committee agreed the proposal to increase subscription charges for Capel allotments. The increase will be introduced to cover the increase in water rates.

The cost of a whole plot will increase to £45 per annum, and a third to £15.00. These charges will be introduced from 1 April 2025. This is considered realistic compared to Mole Valley's charge of £85.00

8. Insurance

It was agreed the Clerk would make enquiries regarding the insurance cover the Parish Council has, particularly the cover needed for future Capel Shows. The Clerk will contact the current providers, Zurich Insurance, to ascertain what Public Liability cover is provided for organised public events on the recreation ground.

9. Date and time of next meeting:

Monday 04 November 2024 in Capel Parish Hall