

## **IWADE PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Held on Tuesday 13 December 2024**

**Present:** Cllr. S. Waters – Chair  
Cllr. S. Tolhurst – Vice-Chair  
Cllr. S. Fuszard  
Samantha Gray, Clerk  
Lynda Fisher, Responsible Financial Officer (RFO)

**1. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair**

Scott Waters was elected Chair, Steve Tolhurst Vice-Chair.

**Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations - None.**

**3. Public Time - None.**

**4. Monitoring the 2024/25 Budget and Accounts**

Spending for the period

1 April to 30 November 2024 reviewed against the existing budget. Noted an overspend on Stationery £266.52p, due to Local Council Administration Book and RFO's printer inks. IT was overspent (£1154.80) due to yearly subscription for Microsoft 365 and Mailboxes. S.137 Donations shown an overspend, but this is due to a grant received from Kent Association of Local Councils (Foodbank) which shows in the previous year's accounts, but was paid out to Swale Food Bank in April 2024 (current year) There is an underspend on other headings, but there are another four months to go and two anticipated large invoices for grounds maintenance and Festive Lights. VAT reclaimable at year end will not be less than £4324. Councillors queried the cost of the Iwade Observer and whether this could be reduced; agreed to look at perhaps going digital in the future, although in its present paper format delivery to every household in the village is more or less ensured.

**5. Budget for 2025/26 and Precept**

Agreed RFO to update the draft budget prepared by the Finance Committee, adding in December figures, ready for submission to the January full Council meeting.

A request for a grant of £1000 has been received from Iwade Church; this to be submitted for a decision at full Council in January. No other requests have been received.

Councillors agreed to suggest an increase in the precept of £9000 to £69000, an 11.65% increase, £4.87p extra per year on a Band D property, which equates to a rise of 9p per week for 2025/26; this is due to ever increasing costs, for example lighting and grounds maintenance, plus an anticipated increase in insurance premium due to a claim. The lighting grant received from Swale Borough Council has now ceased (was £1950). The proposed Budget for 2025/26 and the proposed increase in Precept will be submitted to the January Full Council meeting for discussion and formal agreement.

**6. Any Other Matters Arising - None.**

**The meeting closed at 8.31 p.m.**