

which was extortionate, due to being estimated. Additionally reference was made to an invoice regarding re-opening a rose garden plot.

PROPOSED by Cllr C Frost and SECONDED by Cllr J E John

It was **RESOLVED** that payments presented be authorised, but that no further invoices for re-opening rose garden plots be made until a discussion with the contractor has taken place.

COU/148/23-24

To receive and consider quotations for:

i. A replacement freestanding bin at the MUGA

A quotation of £383.24 to replace a freestanding bin at the MUGA was presented

PROPOSED by Cllr M Mulholland and SECONDED by Cllr C Frost

It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with the quotation at a cost of £383.24

ii. An additional composting bay at the Allotments

Two quotations to provide an additional composting bay at the Allotments was presented

Company A - £550.00

Company B - £506.00

PROPOSED by Cllr C Frost and SECONDED by Cllr M Mulholland

It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with Company B at a cost of £506

COU/149/23-24

To discuss and consider budget proposals for 2024/25

Members once again considered the draft budget proposals for 2024/25, paying particular attention to the cost centres highlighted at the previous meeting.

PROPOSED by Cllr C Frost and SECONDED by Cllr M Fox

After much discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that a precept of £221,459 be **APPROVED** to meet the requirements of the Parish Council (4.75% increase on last year), which with a tax base of 2030.25 equates to £109.08 being payable on a band D property, an increase of £5.13 per year.

COU/150/23-24

To note any other business

(This item should only be used to register future agenda items or items that are solely for information only. No issues requiring a decision or with a financial implication can be raised)

A thank you card from 'Little Beam' (charity) was read aloud.

A member noted that tree roots were causing the constant flooding on Hinckley Road.

Reference was made to bungalows being predominantly needed in the area.

Members were advised that some residents on Station Road (by Station Drive) had taken it upon themselves to pay for a fallen tree trunk to be removed safely.

It was also noted that a former Clerk had received a British Empire medal for the foodbank services provided to the community during covid times.

It was relayed that a gentleman had installed a ring door bell and bled the radiators at the office free of charge. Members offered a token of their appreciation.

COU/151/23-24

To confirm the date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 8th February 2024 at 7 p.m.

PROPOSED FOR CLOSED SESSION

In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and the Local Government Act 1972 ss100 and 102, members of the public and press are likely to be excluded from the meeting at this point due to the confidential nature of the business

PROPOSED by Cllr C Frost and SECONDED by Cllr F Quilliam

It was **RESOLVED** to move into closed session

COU/152/23-24

To receive an update on Freedom of Information, Data Protection and Audit of Accounts and to discuss and consider associated matters

A response from the external Auditor was circulated and considered.

PROPOSED by Cllr M Fox and SECONDED by Cllr C Frost

It was **RESOLVED** that the requested information to address objections (made each year) over several years be provided to the external Auditor by the end of this financial year, in four separate parts. In order to achieve this, two members of staff's combined working hours are to increase by 4.5 hours per week, which is to be reviewed once this matter is complete.

COU/153/23-24

To receive an update on Staffing and to discuss and consider associated matters.

The Clerk noted that a member of staff currently has 23 days annual leave remaining, which due to illness, has been unable to take.

Additionally, a further staff member also has 15 days annual leave remaining.

PROPOSED by Cllr C Frost and SECONDED by Cllr M Mulholland

It was **RESOLVED** that the staff members each carry forward five days to next year's annual leave and in view of the circumstances, be paid for their remaining days at the end of March.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8:55 p.m.

Chairman's Signature



Date

22/2/2024

Chairman's Initials

C. J. F.

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