

TO ALL MEMBERS

3rd October 2024

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the FINANCE COMMITTEE to be held on THURSDAY 10th October 2024 at THE ARK at 11:00 am.



Clerk to the Council

AGENDA

1 Bank balances/reconciliation (please see [attached](#))

THPC is currently holding £175,426.03 (as at 30th September 2024). This is made up of the following balances:-

Current account	£48,998.88
Instant Saver account	£79,519.47
High Interest account	£25,911.42
Cambridge	£20,922.61
Stripe (card payments)	£73.65

All accounts have been reconciled and these have been given to Cllr Jarvis to check.

2 Budget (please see [attached](#))

To consider and review the draft budget and the approximate costs to residents.

Councillors should check the budget carefully to see that it accurately reflects the Council's plans for the coming year and to see if any earmarked reserve should be created.

Inflation is currently just under 3%.

Councillors will see from the notes that there is an additional £10,000 to include in the budget.

3 The Ark (please see [attached](#))

The budget being proposed by the ACE Committee. Note that the staffing costs are subject to change based on decisions made by the ACE and Staffing Committees.

Despite having high rental levels this year, The Ark is still forecast to end the financial year on a small deficit (around £5,000-£6,000), and the Repairs and Renewals fund will be reduced to almost nothing. This is similar to previous years. The Council should consider how it will budget to fill the deficit without having to resort to using its general reserves. Some ideas are to:

- Have the Council take on the full cost of the Clerk's salary (currently a 70/30 split).
- Build more into the subsidy.

Overall, the cost to residents is low, and residents do have the benefit of the community aspects of The Ark such as the museum, book swap, access to clinics, outreach Post

Office, Parish Council Office, signposting to information, PCSO clinics, subsidised local groups, etc.

It is clear that raising the hire rents excessively is not the answer.

4 VAT

Because the Council is VAT registered, it can only reclaim up to £7,500 each year in VAT (on average over 7 years). The Council will go above that level this financial year and it may mean repaying some of the VAT reclaimed to HMRC.

After taking advice from Mark Mulberry, it is recommended that the Council considers de-registering for VAT.

5 Earmarked Reserves (please see [attached](#))

To note the current levels of reserves and consider any movements to/from EMRs.

6 Interest Rates

To note the interest rate for the Cambridge Building Society has decreased by 0.25% to 2.65%.