**Minutes of the Saddleworth Parish Council Finance Committee held on Thursday 24th November 2023 at 7pm at the Civic Hall, Uppermill.**

**Present**: Councillors: S. Al-Hamdani (Chairman)

G. Sheldon

K. Phillips

H. Bishop

L. Dawson

K. Dawson

K. Barton

R. Blackmore

RFO: J Price; Clerk: K Allott

**596. Apologies for Absence:** Cllr P. Walsh

**597. Declarations of interest:** Saddleworth resident councillors are exempt from declaring an interest when discussing the budget and precept.

**598. Minutes from the last meeting on Thursday 2nd November 2023**

These minutes were accepted as correct and signed off at the meeting by the Chairman.

**599. Budget 2024-25 - review of actuals 2023-24 to 30/9/23**

The RFO shared the current Finance Committee half yearly actuals to support Councillors in their discussions around budget setting. He advised that the Assets Committee had met earlier in the week, and that their budget recommendations, along with those of the Communications and Environment Committees, would be shared in advance of the next meeting 14th December when the final budget recommendations can be reviewed, agreed and recommended to full Council on 18th December.

All budget headings were discussed and agreed.

Cllr Al-Hamdani calculated that the Finance Committee spend would be approx. £10k above current year predictions. There was also some discussion around the Asset’s projected budget increase on current year and the effect it would have on reserves and the precept request.

Cllr Sheldon explained we may need to draw on reserves if the car park retaining wall fails, and that quotes and next steps were being discussed at the next Asset’s meeting.

It was decided that the RFO would share the draft budget proposals with the Finance Committee 2 days before the next meeting. At this meeting the final budget and precept recommendation would then be agreed to take to the Council meeting 18th December for approval. OMBC require the final numbers by February so there is some leeway if there are any queries raised by Full Council.

Cllr Al-Hamdani thanked the RFO for all the work he has put into the budget setting.

**600. Items for the next agenda**

* To finalise the Budget 2024-25
* To finalise the proposed Precept request
* Chairman’s Allowance/Regalia

**Date of next meeting: Thursday 14th December 2023 @ 19.00hrs**