

HANNINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the Village hall, Hannington

Tuesday 12th January 2016 at 7pm

Present: Chairman Councillor Simon Taylor, Councillor Janusz Hertz, Councillor Clare Kinnear, Cllr Karin Jardine-Brown, Cllr Robert Finlayson, Chris Pottinger (Clerk)

EXTRACT from Minutes relating to Budget 2016/17 and Precept 2016/17

3.(a) Budget 2016/17

The Clerk had circulated, in advance of the meeting, an outline Budget 2016/17, based on the latest financial position in the current year. The report was not substantially different to that previously circulated to the December meeting, projecting a cash balance as at 31 March 2017 £4,012.

The report highlighted that of the 'Operating Costs' totalling £3,650 in 2016/17:-

- * 68% (£2,500) were legal requirements over which the Council had only limited discretion
- * 14% (£500) were expenses where the Council had an 'obligation',
- * leaving only 18% (£650) that could be described as 'entirely discretionary', and even that related to the maintenance of the village green.

ACTION: notwithstanding the above classifications, the Council agreed to undertake a thorough review before the beginning of the next financial year (1st April 2017) of the history, justification and level of items of expenditure in the current Budget in order to establish if they are still justified 'in meeting the Council's aims, objectives, obligations, and commitments'. This review would also seek to identify if there were other 'worthy causes' that should be supported, but are not at present.

The council were also mindful of two other key considerations when setting the Budget 2016/17, and hence the Precept requirement:-

- The number of high cost, one-off items of expenditure that have to be met from the Council's General Reserve/cash balance, and
- The effect these have had in recent years in reducing the General Reserve/cash balance from £5,900 as at 31 March 2014 to the £3,800 being predicted as at 31 March 2016; a fall of £2,100 (35%).

On reviewing the draft Budget 2016/17, the Council concluded that though progress was now being made in resolving the ownership of the Village green, it was likely that it would not be completed in the current financial year and that therefore half the legal costs (estimated at £750) would fall in 2016/17.

AGREED

The £750 legal costs in 2016/17 should be met from an increase in the Precept.

AGREED

To increase the Precept request from £3,400 (being £3,279 plus £121 Council Tax Support Grant) to £5,500 (being £5,397 plus £103 Council Tax Support Grant), in order to meet the costs of the review of the remuneration of the Clerk and the legal costs for the transfer of the village green.

This decision increases the precept for a Band D property in Hannington from £18.02 per annum (35p per week) to £29.02 per annum (56p per week). This equates to an increase in the total Council Tax on a Band D property from £1,379 (2015/16) to £1,388 (2016/17), an increase of 0.65%; on assumption that all other preceptors remain unchanged.

AGREED

To request the full Parish Council Grant of £1,100

ACTION: Clerk to submit the completed request forms to BDBC by the 31st January deadline.