

NORTHWAY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance Committee held on Monday 10th January 2022, commencing at 7.00 p.m., held in the Main Hall at Northway Community Hub.

Present: Cllr S Terry (Chairman) Cllr J Roberts (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr P Godwin Cllr G Shelton
Cllr T Treacy Cllr S Ward

In Attendance: Mrs C Woodward, Clerk of the Council

FIN/01/22 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence had been received by Cllr Blackmore. No further apologies for absence had been received.

FIN/02/22 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest, as required by the Code of Conduct adopted by the Parish Council on 1st July 2012 (Minute Ref C/159/12), including paragraph 12(2), were made.

FIN/03/22 Financial Requirements for the Year 2022/2023

- a) **Draft Council Budget for 2022/2023:** The Clerk reminded Members that all the Committees had put together their bids for funding during October and November. Subsequently, Mr Kemp from DCK Accounting had attended the Parish Office to review the budget figures. As part of that review some amendments were made and the Clerk led Members through his recommended changes, most of which were relating to wages, NI and pensions. There was also an increase to the ADM-TELEPHONE /BROADBAND budget to allow for a broadband connection at the Village Hall.

The income figures were now included, the largest part of which would come from the hiring of the Hub, where a modest figure of £6,000 had been allocated. An allowance was made for £10,000 to be transferred to the Rolling Capital Projects. With all these changes in place, Cllr Roberts PROPOSED that the Finance Committee recommended a draft budget of £196,946 to cover expenditure for 2022/23 to Full Council for approval. Cllr Shelton SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

- b) **Tewkesbury Borough Council:** Members received the Council Tax Base Notification for 2022/23 and it was noted that this had reduced slightly from the previous year which was £1,386.95 to £1,385.68. This was usually due to more properties in the Parish claiming discounts i.e. single occupancy discount, second homes, increases to number of people on benefits etc.
- c) **Precept 2022/2023:** It had already been noted that a figure of £196,949 was required to cover expenditure for the forthcoming financial year and three scenarios were presented:-
- i. **Option 1 – (Copy circulated to Members)** A precept of £205,946 to allow a figure of £19,000 (rather than £10,000) to be put into the Rolling Capital Programme (this was the figure that had been recommended the previous year, Min Ref FIN/07/21 refers). This would equate to a 9.72% increase (showing on council tax bills as 9.82%).

Members were concerned that this seemed quite high, especially bearing in mind the large increases expected to domestic fuel bills.

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FIN/03/22 **Financial Requirements for the Year 2022/2023** (continued)

- ii. **Option 2** – (Copy circulated to Members) A precept of £196,946 with £10,000 placed in the Rolling Capital Projects. This would equate to a 4.93% increase and show on the council tax bill at 5.02%.
- iii. **Option 3** – (Copy circulated to Members) A precept of £193,146 with £10,000 placed in the Rolling Capital Projects as well as using £3,800 from general reserves to slightly reduce the precept. This would equate to a 2.90% increase that would show on the council tax bill as 3%.

Members debated the three options and did not feel happy at the thought of increasing the precept by 9% but also did not want to use money from the reserves to fund expenditure. After further deliberation Cllr Ward PROPOSED recommending Option 2 to Full Council. Cllr Shelton SECONDED.

FOR: UNANIMOUS

FIN/04/22 **Correspondence received after 4th January 2022**

None received.

As there was no further business the meeting ended at 7.40 p.m.