

Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Meeting of the Harworth & Bircotes Town Council held on Monday 14th February 2022, at 2pm at the Town Hall, Scrooby Road, Bircotes, DN11 8JP.

Present: Cllr Evans (Chair), Cllr Barns, Cllr Flynn, Cllr James, Cllr Jones, Cllr Smith

Others: Wendy Davies (Officer) & Karen Tarburton (Community Development and Funding Manager)

17176 To receive and approve any apologies and reasons for absence

Apologies and reasons received from Cllr Dean, Cllr Fear, Cllr Schuller and Cllr Wratten.

Cllr James proposed to approve the apologies and reasons; this was seconded by Cllr Flynn and resolved by the Council – 6 votes.

17177 To receive Declaration of Interests on any item on the agenda

No Declaration of Interests received.

17178 To suspend the meeting for a public session

No members of the public present.

17179 To consider and approve the Budget and Precept for 2022-23

The Officer previously circulated copies of the draft budget, reserves, earmarked reserves and precept options for the Councillors to view.

The Chair reported on the Finance Committee meeting discussion and recommendation to increase the precept by 3% which is an annual increase of £3.52 which is 29p a week for a Band D property.

No additional points were raised by the Councillors.

The Chair then continued; with a budget of £367,375 expenditure and looking at income plus other monies gives us a requirement of £282,651 income if the precept isn't increased; this will only bring in £263,798. Therefore, the Council needs to look at between 1% - 3%. An 3% precept increase would total £271,712; the impact on the taxpayer would be annual increase of £3.52 (29p per week) for a Band D property; therefore, the recommendation was 3% for 2022-2023.

The Chair asked the council if we need to cover the costs of the estimated budget expenditure of £367,375; the answer was yes.

Cllr Smith proposed that the draft budget is approved, and the precept is increased by 3% as discussed above; this was seconded by Cllr Jones and resolved by the Council – 6 votes.

The Chair noted that this resolution is based on the fact that there is anticipated energy price increase of 50% in year; plus, inflation rate is now approaching a predicted 7% so the current estimated budget is unlikely to cover the costs of these two items.

The fact is that Council is dealing with a deficit between estimated general budget expenses and estimated income., this is without consideration of the wish list. The Finance Committee recommended the increase in the precept is necessary because of this deficit.

This 3% increase will generate £7,914.00 towards the deficit, on balance it is expected that the rest of the remaining deficit will be covered by additional income increases not budgeted for, if necessary, any deficit will be met from reserves.

At this point, Karen Tarburton gave an update on the following:

- The proposed Christmas event will be over 3 days: consisting of the Christmas lighting event, a Winter Wonderland, a panto and a craft market
- On April 9th there will be a partnership event to hold a food & drink show on the events area
- For the Queen's Platinum Jubilee – it is proposed to hold a family fun day on the Tommy Simpson field and a street party for the older persons at the Town Hall
- On the 11th & 12th of September, a weekend retro bike event
- Two bee silhouettes to be temporarily placed on the phase two of the events area

The meeting closed at 2.30pm