



Chailey Parish Council
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Minutes

A Council Meeting was held on Tuesday 29th January 2020 in the Reading Room, Chailey Green.

This meeting was a continuation of the Full Council meeting held 21st January 2020 in order to discuss items 20/020 & 20/021 which were adjourned.

Present: Cllr. K Jordan (Chair)
Cllrs. S Avery, E Berry, M Belcher, M Lethem, J Millam, R Penfold

Public present: None.

In attendance: B Newell, Clerk to the Council.

20/016.Apologies for absence: Cllrs Cornwall, Evans, Olbrich, Tregenza.

20/017.Declarations of interest: None.

20/018.Questions/comments from members of the public: None.

20/019.Items considered as a matter of urgency: None

20/020.To consider and if thought fit approve the Council's budget for the financial year 2020/21: This was discussed on the 21st January in the Full Council meeting but adjourned on the premise that the Clerk would seek the advice of the former Clerk (who is an Accountant). On so doing, it was strongly advised that the budget of £98,963 stay as it is.

The difference between the Clerk's suggested precept figure of £71,963 and that of the Councillors suggestion (£66,720) is a shortfall of £5,243. The former Clerk did not think it necessary to find ways of reducing the budget to cover this amount; there should be enough amounts in the general reserve to accommodate this, as discussed in the next item below (20/021)

A proposal came from Cllr Berry to accept the budget and was seconded by Cllr Belcher. All in favour.

Of note, Cllr Penfold asked about the Windmill – the Council own the Windmill and are obliged to carry out repairs and maintain its upkeep. Such repairs and maintenance usually occur every 5 or 6 years. The Council set aside reserves each year to accommodate for this, and this year, the Windmill will be due a makeover. Cllr Penfold asked if the Council had explored other ways of funding these costs. Various ways of generating an income have been investigated in the past, but as of yet, no one has thought of a viable idea.

The Chairman did agree that the Windmill is a costly expenditure, but it is also an iconic structure and a monument that the village are proud of. Therefore, the Council do not currently have any other alternative than using a percentage of the precept to pay for repairs and maintenance.

Cllr Belcher pointed out that the Council will need to be mindful of how much we give in gifts to the local societies. The Council did their utmost to meet as much of the amounts requested as they could last year, but are aware that this year they may not be in the same position financially.

20/021.To set the Precept for the financial year 2020/21.

This item was discussed in the Full Council meeting held on the 21st January 2020. The suggested precept at that meeting was £71,963. This was not accepted by the Council. Their suggestion was for a lower increase, below 10%, for example a 9% increase would yield a precept raise of £66,720. The opinion of the former Clerk was that with this precept rise, the Council would, with prudent care be able to operate normally. To add to this, the forecast for reserves does indicate that there will be enough in the general reserves at 01/04/2020 to meet the accepted rule that Councils should hold an amount equivalent to roughly 6 months' routine expenditure in the general reserve.

A precept of £66,720 would result in an increase for a Band D household of £4.24 a year or 35p a month.

A proposal came from Cllr Lethem to accept the precept and was seconded by Cllr Avery, all in favour, one abstention. Motion carried forward.

20/022. To note and consider any implications arising from the Council's duty under section 17(1) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998: nothing to report.

20/023. Confidential matters: to consider a resolution of exclude the press and public from the meeting in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960 in order to discuss items of a confidential or commercially sensitive nature: None

20/024. Date of the next meeting of the Full Council: Tuesday 18th February 2020 at 7.30pm at the Reading Room, Chailey Green.

Signed:
Chair

Date:

Initials:

Date: