

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 1st February 2023 at 7:00pm at Bisham Abbey

Attendees

Councillors: Councillors: Alan Keene (AK) (Chair), Ged Wylie (GW), Derek Oliver (DO), Mandy Robson Brown (MRB) and Mary Cooper (MC)

Officer of the Council: Barry Malki

Part One

105.

I. Apologies for absence

Cllr Jim Cooke

II. Precept

Councillors discussed a variety of options for the 23-24 precept which including variances to the amount ringfenced for Special Projects, and the amount required to top-up the reserves.

DO suggested that some of the items in the Budget should be removed, as they had not been agreed by the Council. This including the donation to the Bisham Brook Restoration Group, which was not a recurring payment, but a one-off payment decided on a case-by-case basis.

DO suggested that any Training that is required should come out of reserves. GW concurred.

GW felt that the Special Projects should be set at £6k in order to deal with the works needed to the playground.

MRB was in favour of options that increased the Precept by a small percentage, and not in favour of options that reduced the Precept.

MC felt that, in the current climate, it was the wrong time to raise the precept.

AK gave an update on the historical legal case that had severely impacted the reserves, noting that that reserves are a buffer against such instances.

AK noted that it wasn't prudent to reduce the target policy of £20k reserves.

MC stated that she was not supportive of ringfencing £6k for Special Project, which would nominally be used for the playground, as many parishioners did not get a benefit from it.

GW believes that the playground is important and needs to have money spent on it.

MRB proposed setting the precept at £39,998.34 (which included £4k for Special Projects, a £1,150 Contingency Fund and a top-up to reserves of £8,429.04 to reach the target £20k Policy)

BISHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Barry Malki

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MC Seconded
AK and DO agreed.
GW abstained.

BM to submit Precept 23/24 paperwork for £39,998.34

Part 1 of the meeting closed at 20:00

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Date Agreed:

Signed:

Position: – Chair/Vice Chair/Councillor