

# POWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an extra ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held on  
Wednesday 19th January 2022 at 7.30pm at Powick Parish Hall

**Present:** Councillors A. Lamb, C. Phillips, J. Allsopp, D. Jones, M. Huckfield, R. Humpage, F. Williams, S. Williams, S. Underwood.

**21.112 Apologies:** Councillors R. Willetts, J. Foy, P. Harris, M. Richmond.

**21.113 Declarations of Interests & consideration for requests for Councillor Dispensations in line with s33 of the Localism Act 2011:** None.

**21.114 To approve the budget and precept for the financial year 2022-23:** A draft budget and precept had been prepared by the Clerk and Finance Working Group and had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The Council has paid a £25k contribution towards the new pavilion project and this has reduced reserves significantly to £17k, which is less than a year's operating costs (as recommended by NALC). Next year expenditure will increase across all utilities and grass cutting, and the amount paid to WCC for street lighting will also increase significantly due to ageing light columns and lamps which have to be replaced for H&S reasons and the fact that parts are now obsolete. This is part of a rolling programme of replacement which has now become more urgent. The Council will also have to fund the first-year operating costs of the new pavilion until regular users are in place to work towards becoming cost neutral. Initial equipment also needs to be funded as this is not covered in s.106 funding. The pavilion project team have already reduced build costs significantly.

It was noted that there may be a need to discuss future operating costs for the new pavilion and Callow End pavilion, although the volunteers at Callow End already do a very good job regarding maintenance. User agreements for the new pavilion need to be drafted and income figures, hire fees and targets agreed. Income has been shown as zero for this budget sheet as it is an unknown figure until completion (worst case scenario).

It was agreed that despite the precept being kept at a 3.5% increase or below for a number of years, there is now the need to cover increasing operational expenditure including funding services for additional housing facilities within the parish. The increase in precept this year will not directly contribute towards replacing financial reserves it will only cover costs as forecasted. The current average Band D property pays £37.10 per annum towards the parish precept, and this will need to increase to £52.10 per annum from 1st April 2022. This works out to £4.34 per month or £1.00 per week per household paying Council Tax. It was noted that not all existing and new households within the parish pay full Council Tax to MHDC.

It was proposed by Cllr Huckfield, seconded Cllr Humpage to increase the precept request to MHDC to £71,925.50 as per the draft budget circulated. All agreed. Clerk to send the request to MHDC as agreed.

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.00pm.**