

Knightswick and Doddenham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council on Monday 16th January 2023 at 19:00 hrs. at the Talbot Hotel, Knightswick.

Present;

Chair, Cllr B Munt

Cllrs: Ms G Evans, Ms M Horton, F Budden, M J C Bellamy,

C.Cllr Ms K Hanks,

D. Cllrs Ms S Rouse, P Whatley, G M Brewin (Clerk)

Apologies: Cllr D Steel,

Visitors: None

Public Question Time prior to the formal meeting;

None

Reports; County Councillor, District Councillors.

C.Cllr Ms K Hanks had sent a formal report, (*see appendix -a*) she covered the main headings and answered questions.

D. Cllrs Ms S Rouse and P Whatley gave an informal review of the activities of MHDC including the updating of the SWDP, the 5 year housing supply and planning policy. Also covered were the support for leisure facilities including those at Martley, and keeping the precept below 3%

The formal meeting commenced at 19:25hrs.

Formal Agenda

1.

Apologies for absence and members' declarations of interest.

The Chair reported that he had received a letter of resignation from Cllr Ms K L Parkinson.

Members expressed their appreciation of Mrs Parkinson's contribution to the council's activities and asked the clerk to write formally to her.

The clerk noted that as there were now less than six months before the election of a new council it was not necessary to fill the vacancy left by both Mrs K Parkinson and Mr P Edwards.

The apology from Cllr D Steel was accepted.

2.

Confirm the minutes of the Meeting of the Council on 12/09/22 (*circulated in advance*)

These were agreed and signed by the Chair.

3.

Financial Matters

a) Agree a budget and precept for 2023-4 (for information 2022-3, £3,500)

Note – the council had a deficit of £776.12 in the year to 31/3/22 and there will be additional admin costs from MHDC for the election in May – up to £1200 if a vote is required – so a precept of £4500 would be reasonable. This will be reduced by £3000 from the Village Hall Charity residual fund as agreed at the September 2022 meeting so the Precept Request would be £1500.

(Accounts for 2022-3 circulated for reference.)

After a discussion on the possibilities of additional election costs it was agreed that the precept would be £1500.

b) Note the following payments made as delegated actions since the last meeting:

15/09/22 R A Wilks Parish Lengthsman Exp£126.00

14/11/22 R A Wilks Parish Lengthsman Exp£144.00

07/12/22 R A Wilks Parish Lengthsman Exp£426.00

The were all noted.

c) Note the council's bank balance is £17,540.33 at 31/12/22 (Inc £13.575 Village Hall Charity)

Noted.

4.

Planning Matters; None

5.

Election of a New Council – May 2023

Consider posting newsletters concerning the election to every residence in the parish.

(Draft circulated in advance)

After a wide-ranging discussion it was agreed not to do do this.

Separately the clerk was asked to ensure this information is available in the "Footprints Magazine" and also advise the producer of this that its visibility on the internet could be improved.

6.

Clerk to report.

Correspondence, Lengthsman, Outstanding items.

The clerk reported on concerns that the WCC Lengthsman Office had over some work done on the council's request. He would ensure that this did not recur. Councillors expressed their appreciation of the lengthsman's prompt actions during the recent period of heavy rainfalls.

He was asked to arrange for the approach to the Teme Footbridge to be cleared.

The possibility of painting the bridge barriers with fluorescent paint would be investigated.

7.

Items for the next meeting

Election of a New Council – May 2023

8.

Confirm the date of the next meeting: Monday 20th March 2023 – agreed.

(Note – this will be the last meeting of the current council)

The meeting closed at 20:05

Minutes confirmed

Appendix - a

Report to Knightwick and Doddenham Parish Council 09/01/2023

Worcestershire County Council Budget 2023/2024:

We are at the draft stage and the budget will go through scrutiny and then finally be approved by February full Council Meeting. Draft outline below:

Overall WCC budget £400.79 million vs £373.19 million in 2023/24.

£27.7 million increase in the net budget from last year which will be funded by £14.1 million net increase in council tax income, £8.4 increase in business rates and £5.2 million net use of reserves.

Proposed uplift of 2.94% and 2% uplift in adult social care levy, so total increase of **4.94%**, less than the 5% permitted by central government.

This would put band D council tax @ £1465.78. This puts Worcestershire at the 3rd lowest place in the country out of all County Councils without fire in the data set.

We have now received our Provisional settlement from Government and County Council is around £8 million better off than originally expected and we are able to produce a balanced budget in 23/24.

Notes on budget:

Public transport – council is proposing £3.5 million from earmarked reserves in 2023/24 to support public transport as it recovers from the pandemic. Our cabinet member for Highways has started a consultation process, with a December meeting in Malvern – Parish Council members, indeed all residents are welcome to be included in these meetings.

The cost of inflation is having a significant effect on the price of new projects and highways maintenance is running much higher than the headline CPI rate, so it is proposed to add a further £2.5 million to the financing of the capital programme. All promised work will be ring- fenced.

County Council Members Fund enables smaller but important things to be done in communities. It was due to end in 2024, but additional funds will be allocated to end in 2025.

Divisional Fund:

An application has been submitted for a new bench at Ankerdine Common at £400

Visit Worcestershire:

This is now under the remit of Worcestershire County Council, and I would like to mention that any events taking place in The Parish, may be featured on the site without charge.

Boundary Review for County Council:

The process has started and looks as if the total number of divisions, 57, will remain the same.

Highways:

The Winter Maintenance Team is fully prepared for the colder weather this week. Gritters will be out and about on Worcestershire Roads over the course of the next few days.

Ukraine Host Schemes:

The most up to date, verified numbers, as 30 November for Malvern Hills

Total number of guests is 256 of which 83 are children (under 19) Number of hosts = 76

Malvern Hills has the second largest number of hosts/guests in the county. Wychavon has the largest number

Karen Hanks 16.01.2023