

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
NORTON-JUXTA-KEMPSEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
THE 14TH JANUARY 2015 AT NORTON PARISH HALL, LITTLEWORTH

There were no public question time discussions.

1. Apologies for Absence: A. Bennett, C. Dawson, Mrs. D. Hewison, P. Richmond, Mrs S. Way-Vautier, Miss A. Poole, M. Reeves. These apologies were accepted and approved.

Attending: H. Turvey (Chair), K. Fincher, D. James, Mrs. C. McGovern, Mrs. J. Greenway (Clerk/ Responsible Finance Officer).

2. Declarations of Interest

a) Cllr. Turvey reminded members of requirements.

b) and c) None. Existing dispensations were noted.

d) None.

3. 2015/1 2015/16 Budget and Precept

The Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer and Cllr. Turvey provided an update on the budget/precept setting process, the Council Tax Support Grant passed on by Wychavon and the current position relating to local referendums, precept capping and increases deemed to be excessive. The draft budget circulated in advance of the meeting was considered, along with projects which may need to be part financed by reserves and proposals for appointments to carry out groundsman/handyman and litter picking work. Members were reminded that, at the 17th July 2014 Parish Council meeting, it was agreed that the groundsman position would need to be funded by a precept increase for 2015/16. Cllr. Turvey advised that his report in the autumn 2014 Parish Council newsletter, highlighted that the Council was looking to appoint a groundsman and that this would increase the Council's budget, which would amount to approximately £7 per annum for a Band D property. No feedback was received from Parishioners in objection to this proposal.

The need to continue to maintain a general reserve (equivalent to one year's precept) as a contingency was agreed, with reserves in excess of the general reserve being earmarked for specific projects e.g. Parish Hall recreation area redevelopment, tarmacking of the Parish Hall car park, replacement notice boards.

It was proposed by Cllr. Fincher, seconded by Cllr. James and agreed by all to submit a budget requirement of £39,161 to Wychavon DC (£37,894 precept and £1,267 Grant), which equates to a 19.5% (£6.49 per annum) increase for Band D Council Tax. The Clerk will submit no later than 16th January.

It was proposed by Cllr. Fincher, seconded by Cllr. James and agreed by all to offer the 'Groundsman 1' and litter picker roles as one employed position with the 'Groundsman 2' role being offered on a self employed basis. The Clerk will offer the positions as proposed.

It was agreed for Cllr. Turvey to write a separate 'finance' report for the spring edition of the Parish Council newsletter to confirm the precept increase to parishioners, what this will fund, achievements of the Council over the last 12 months, future plans and issues we are facing.

4. 2015/2 Appointment of Internal Auditor

Appointment of Iain Selkirk as the independent Internal Auditor for 2014/15, at an unchanged cost of £80, was proposed by Cllr. Fincher, seconded by Cllr. James and agreed by all. The Clerk will enquire whether the auditor holds professional indemnity cover.

5. 2015/3 Insurance for New Play Area and Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA)

In view of the imminent installation of the new play area and MUGA, the Zurich insurance renewal including the new play area and MUGA was considered, along with the option of a 3 year long term

agreement.

It was proposed by Cllr. Mrs McGovern, seconded by Cllr. Fincher and agreed by all to insure all the play area/MUGA equipment, associated fencing, safety surfacing and the MUGA tarmac, as detailed within the quote as 'scenario 2', on a 3 year long term agreement, with the 2015 renewal premium £2,447.99.

The remainder of the insurance renewal will be reviewed at the 29th January Parish Council meeting, along with adequacy of cover for other items insured, prior to the renewal date of 6th February.

6. 2015/4 Date of Next Meeting - Thursday 29th January 2015

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.