

APPENDIX

HINDLIP, MARTIN HUSSINGTREE & SALWARPE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

24th October 2016, Committee Room Salwarpe Village Hall

In attendance: Councillors Hughes, Luscombe, Meddings, Phillips, Thomas
Councillor Oakley (Chairman ex-officio)
Clerk/RFO E. Gallagher

1. **Preliminary draft Budget/Precept 2017-2018:**

The Committee reviewed year to date income and expenditure against current 2016-2017 budget.

The aim of the Parish Council in preparing its annual budget is to keep the precept element of the council tax low for local residents but balance the need to raise sufficient funding to support its commitments and work undertaken on behalf of the community.

2. **Staffing costs:**

The Committee considered employment and salary costs, in conjunction with HMRC allowances, National 2017 Pay Awards and Local Councils training requirements for Clerks.

3. **Management of Commitments:**

The Committee reviewed the following elements; contracts, fixed costs, allowances, maintenance of equipment, training requirements, community events, representations at Planning Committees, appeals, future election costs. Identification of risks; adequate Insurance, property and land assets, war monument and memorial public open space.

Also reviewed were reasons for increase in office consumables and stationery resulting from introduction of statutory governance and financial legislation and the distribution of information to residents and public displays on future development within or adjacent to our three parishes.

4. **Grants/ Reserves**

The Committee considered the implications of the potential changes to the Council Tax Support Grant calculated on the parishes Band D properties, and its continuation in future years. Also discussed was the need to retain a level of reserves for contingencies and other sources of income.

5. **Council Tax Capping – Referendum Principles:**

The Committee discussed the implications of the Governments proposals for the 2017/18 Local Government Finances Legislation and changes to local resources collected by local precepting authorities. Proposals to extend the referendum principles to Parish Councils that increases its precept above the core 2% triggering a local referendum that will ask local people if they support an increase in parish funding to support the local services provided by their parish council.

6. **Recommendations:**

- i. The Finance Committee to recommend the preliminary 2017-2018 budget to the Council at its meeting on 21st November 2016.
- ii. The Finance Committee to re-convene early January 2017 to consider the views of the Council and Residents together with details of the District Council's Tax Support Grant and Government's proposals to extend the referendum principles to Parish Councils.
- iii. The proposed final 2017-2018 Budget/Precept to be submitted for the Council's approval at its meeting on 16th January 2017.

- iv. To inform residents of their opportunity to view the preliminary 2017-2018 budget proposals at the November Council Meeting and the final proposed precept at the January 2017 meeting prior to submission to the District Council. The precept forms part of Council Tax which is collected from each household within the three parishes

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