

# Great Comberton Parish Council

2021/24 Parish Council Meeting - Minutes Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2021, 7.00pm Village Hall

**Parish Councillors Present:** Chair Collingwood, Cllrs Hodgson, Lavelle and Peart.

**Clerk/RFO:** Nicola Harding

**In attendance:** No parishioners

**Apologies:** Cllr Hamilton and Inglis.

## Parish Council Meeting

### 1. **Delegation to the Clerk**

Proposed Chair Collingwood, seconded Cllr Lavelle, all in favour, to delegate regular Council actions to the Clerk until regular meetings resume, or until the Council meet to fulfil the requirement to attend a meeting within six months or the Annual Meeting, whichever occurs first.

### 2. **Budget 2022/23**

Prior to the meeting, the Clerk and Cllr Hamilton had prepared and discussed a review of the current financial year's budget and predicted income and expenditure for the 2022/23 financial year, which was circulated to all members for consideration. Following a significant period of maintaining a minimal budget, Cllrs were in agreement that a substantial increase for the next financial year is necessary in order to ensure adequate reserves for eventualities, without which, may risk the Parish Council being unable to meet essential, unforeseen costs. Based on the Council's predicted income for 2022/23, the Clerk had sought advice from Worcestershire Calc, who recommended setting reserves @ £4500, thereby raising cash from a higher precept.

Three proposals for the 2022/23 Precept request were discussed, taking into account the following key points for consideration:

- Ensuring an increase in legal reserves in line with Calc recommendations @ £4500.
- Bringing the Clerk's salary into line with recommended Calc pay scales and weekly hours, as of November 2021.
- Earmarking £1000 for potential election costs which may be incurred during the following financial year.
- Ensuring sufficient funds are available to protect Parish Council assets, such as the War Memorial: two quotes have been obtained for essential repairs, and although it is anticipated that 75% of funds will be raised via grant funding from the War Memorial Trust, it would be prudent to ensure the remaining 25% of funds are accessible, should this be necessary.

Chair Collingwood extended thanks on behalf of the Parish Council to Cllr Hamilton and the Clerk for preparing the figures, and the following action was agreed:

Proposed Cllr Lavelle, seconded Cllr Hodgson, all in favour, to approve a budget request of £4425.00, resulting in a 25% rise from 2020/21 and an increase to Band D Council Tax @ £5.91 over ten months.

*Action: Clerk to forward the Council's request to Wychavon District Council by 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022, with a rationale summarising the key points above.*

### 3. **Date of Next Meeting:** A virtual, advisory meeting was agreed to be scheduled on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 7.00 pm.

Signed .....

Date.....

**Chairman**