Holymoorside & Walton Parish Council

Minutes of the full council meeting, called expressly to deal with financial matters, held on Tuesday 8th December 2020 via video conferencing (zoom meeting number https://zoom.us/j/3671565075.

Present; *Councillors* M E Thacker (in the chair), A Broderick, D Hinchliffe, A Holmes, D Phelps & P Truscott; *Clerk* K Brailsford

AGENDA PART 1 - non-confidential information

FL201/20-21 **To receive apologies for absence**

NOTED; apologies from Cllr N Wragg due to continued ill health, Cllr A Grinbergs due to a long standing engagement, Cllr J Swallow due to a family commitment and Cllr P Maskrey due to illness.

FL202/20-21 **Variation of Order of Business**

NOTED; no variation in the order of business was deemed necessary.

FL203/20-21 **Public Questions**

NOTED; no members of the public were in attendance to comment on any matter.

NOTED; no DCC councillor was in attendance.

NOTED; NEDDC councillor M E Thacker reported on the recent mine shaft, which had collapsed at a local golf club and that area was now safe and secure.

NOTED; no member with a significant other interest wished to speak at this point in proceedings.

FL204/20-21 **Declarations of Interest**

NOTED; Cllr A Broderick declared an interest in agenda item FL206/20-21, specifically the material variances information, which referred to bowling expenditure and indicated that she would remain in the meeting.

FL205/20-21 **Exclusion of Public**

NOTED; no agenda items required the exclusion of the public or press.

FL206/20-21 **Financial matters relating to current financial year**

NOTED; full and detailed discussion in relation to the I & E figures to date, including material variances information and covid specific information (papers circulated previously in the agenda pack).

NOTED; consideration of the full bank reconciliation to date (papers circulated previously in the agenda pack).

RESOLVED; acceptance of the I&E figure and bank reconciliation to date.

NOTED; the gas contract for the village hall was due for renewal and the Clerk, following investigation, recommended a new three year contract with the current supplier at a standing charge of 25p per day and 3.8 khw at 3.8p per unit.

NOTED; in line with the council's Climate and Nature Action Strategy the green credentials of the gas company had ben checked with approximately 20.5% renewable energy and 66.6% nuclear, leaving only 12.8% from fossil fuels.

RESOLVED; to enter into a new three year agreement with the existing company.

NOTED; verbal update on the business interruption claim and that this case was currently lodged with the appeal courts (papers circulated via e-mail) (previous minute reference FL086/20-21).

FL207/20-21 **Matters relating to the 2020-21 budget**

NOTED; correspondence from NEDDC in relation to precept & tax base information 2021-2022 (papers circulated previously in the agenda pack).

NOTED; due to covid, no three year forecast can be prepared.

NOTED; the difficulties of preparing a budget when the future income of the village hall was unknown.

NOTED; consideration of future staff salaries, including information in relation to caretaking hours and the NLW, with consideration being given to administrative hours and job re-evaluation.

NOTED; due to future anticipated council initiatives, it would be difficult to talk about salaries and hours worked for either the Caretakers or the Administration Assistant when various employee roles would require job re-evaluation in the near future.

NOTED; consideration of the presented budget figures and precept for 2021-2022, which showed various increases and scenarios (papers circulated previously in the agenda pack).

NOTED; consideration of the current Chairman's allowance, which had not been increased for at least twenty five years.

NOTED; Holymoorside and Walton parish remained consistently low in their precept requirements and compared very favourably against other councils in the district.

NOTED; the parish council had a duty to consider the hardship experienced by residents during the covid situation, which was anticipated to continue for the forthcoming year.

RESOLVED; further consideration of staff salaries will be carried out after job re-evaluations and possible changes required to the caretaking duties and hours and that the council were fully aware of their legal requirements in relation to the NLW.

RESOLVED; acceptance of the presented budget figures, pending a typing error, including the fact that there would be a shortfall in income against expenditure and that reserves would have to be utilised to balance the expenditure.

RESOLVED; the Chairman's allowance be increased to £450 from April 2021.

RESOLVED; the precept for 2021-2022 will be set at £63195.

FL208/20-21 **Part 2 – Confidential Business**

NOTED; no business was conducted under this part of the agenda.