

MEETING OF CHANDLER'S FORD PARISH COUNCIL

7.00 PM 24 JANUARY 2022

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Chairman Cllr Evans; Councillors: Atkinson, Aubry, Bicknell, Bourne, Broadhurst, Child, Dolbear, Duguid, Holden-Brown, Hughes, Irish, Johnson, Kyrle and Newcombe.

In Attendance: Duncan Murray (Parish Clerk) and Hilary Blaker (Deputy Finance Officer).

Public Participation:

There was one member of the public present, Jane Hitchman, Site Rep Ramalley Allotments who commented that she had been told that she could only talk to the appointed Allotment Representatives of the Council about the allotments, not her local Parish Councillor. (*Post meeting note: this means compliance with s101(1) of the LGA 1972 – no council responsibilities can be delegated to an individual councillor.*) She also commented that the appointment of an Allotments Officer was a 'fait accompli'. She further commented that detail had still not been released about how costs were arrived at.

The Clerk commented, when invited to by the Chairman, that he was disgusted at the comments challenging him, and his team's, integrity and that all due steps had been taken in progressing the potential post and that further steps were required to set salary via HR and P&F for other items.

The Chairman agreed with this, stating that the concept had gone from the Allotments Sub-committee to Asset Management and would be going through other committees, but it had to be considered in setting the budget.

996 APOLOGIES

There were apologies from Cllrs Atkinson, Bicknell, Cox, Pragnell and Ricketts. Cllr Child was not present. The Clerk mentioned that due to recent illness Cllr Johnson needed to have his apologies, going forwards, as being under the Covid-19 dispensation agreed at the 27 September meeting.

997 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

998 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman's report was read out, it mentioned problems/delays with the distribution of the Newsletter, presumed to be because of Covid-19 issues. This was despite the fact that they were delivered by the printers to the distribution company in plenty of time. They also included a flyer about shopping locally. Members were asked to let the office know the details of any households that had not received them.

The 'Granted to You' Funding round would be held on 28 February 2022, the application form and guidance were already published on the Council's website. As no funding round was held the previous year there was £10k available for local groups. Members were also requested to pass along details to local community groups/charities. The closing date for applications was 23 February 2022.

999 TO APPROVE/ACCEPT MINUTES OF MEETINGS

- a) **to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 13 December 2021,**
Following proposal and seconding on each item in turn, the individual minutes were AGREED by a show of hands and the financial reports noted.

1000 TO ADOPT THE FINANCIAL RISK ASSESSMENT 2021-2022 PREPARED BY THE INTERNAL AUDITOR 20 DECEMBER 2021.

Following proposal, seconding and on a show of hands this was AGREED.

1001 TO NOTE THE INTERIM INTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT DATED 7 JANUARY 2022.

This was NOTED.

1002 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE WHETHER TO SET THE BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1 APRIL 2022 TO 31 MARCH 2023 AS PER THE OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION WITH A 0% RISE TO THE COUNCIL TAX AT £55.19 FOR A BAND D PROPERTY, GIVING A PRECEPT INCOME FIGURE OF £508,215.46.

THE BUDGET SPECIFICALLY AGREEING THE INCLUSION OF: -

- a. provision for an Allotments Officer at 8 hours per week,
- b. an increase to the allotment rental charge of £3 per rod in October 2022 and a further increase of £2 per rod in October 2023, along with
- c. an administration charge of £30 including VAT for all new allotment tenancies from 1 April 2022.

The Clerk confirmed to Members that a 0% increase was acceptable and doable, and that the inclusion of an Allotments Officer in the budget was as a provision as it was an expenditure that was able to be foreseen, but not decided upon as yet, as it still needed to go to Policy and Finance as well as HR committees. Accounting provisions meant that it should be included in the budget as it was anticipated to impact on expenditure in the coming financial year.

Members made comment on the income being prudent, but would wish to achieve higher figures, and on issues of green energy and undertaking an assessment. The Clerk mentioned that he anticipated achieving £30k more but had factored in potential Covid-19 risks and resulting losses. He also commented on the Sports Hall having a significant PV array on its roof and the energy contracts ran until 2023, so caps were in place to protect budgetary provisions.

Following proposal, seconding and on a show of hands the Budget and Precept were set as recommended, with a Band D property paying a Council Tax of £55.19 and Precept of £508,215.46.

1003 TO APPROVE THE REMAINING 2022 MEETING SCHEDULE.

Following proposal, seconding and on a show of hands this was AGREED.

1004 MEMBER'S QUESTIONS

(None submitted for the agenda).

1005 DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING: 7.00PM 21 MARCH 2022 FRYERN PAVILION.

1006 TO AGREE TO EXEMPT THE MEETING FROM PUBLIC ATTENDANCE UNDER THE PUBLIC ACCESS TO MEETINGS ACT 1960 /C2 DUE TO THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED.

Following proposal, seconding and on a show of hands this was AGREED. A confidential minute was taken.

That being the conclusion of business the meeting closed at 7.31pm.

Chairman.....