

**Minutes of the Extraordinary MEETING of TIBSHELF PARISH COUNCIL  
held remotely via Zoom,  
on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 7.40pm**

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**Present:**

Councillors A Beckett, P Billington, I Brentnall, M Coupe, R Heffer, K Salt MBE, R Vaughan, D S Watson, C Whitehead.

**In attendance:**

Parish Clerk, Projects and Communications Officer.

3 members of the public.

**NON-EXEMPT ITEMS**

Prior to the formal commencement of the meeting, Members observed 1 minute's silence in memory of former Council member M. Pope who had recently passed away.

**0121/2426 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. G. Foley and S. Wood.

Moved : to accept the apologies

Proposed by Cllr. I. Brentnall, seconded by Cllr C. Whitehead ALL in favour.

**0121/2427 Declarations of Members Interests**

None declared

**0121/2428 Public Speaking**

James Knight, local resident asked for clarification over the budget papers, and whether Council would be able to sustain a further year of relying upon reserves as part of the total spending during the following year.

The meeting was pointed towards the impact of Coronavirus, which had actually meant an underspend owing to the reduction in public events and savings against other budgets.

**0121/2429 Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman announced that there had been requests from the public for re-allocation of grit bins, following snowfall. Approaches had been made from areas of Lincoln Close (where there was already one bin in position, but in a different position than requested) and Tiree Close. The Chairman asked the Clerk to make some enquiries regarding the actual location ahead of any decision.

**0121/2430 Council accounts to December 2020 for review, and budget setting for Year 2021 / 2022**

Cllr D. Watson said that the perceived underspend was as a direct result of Covid Grant support from Bolsover District Council, which should not be relied upon to prop up the normal spending of the Council.

Cllr D. Watson queried why the salary budget was proposed to be £95,000 in the forthcoming year as it had increased from £71,000 from the previous year. The Clerk stated

the salary budget had not been increased from the previous year, and that following the annual cost of living pay award, an increase in employer "on cost" was a contributory factor, there were increased costs with additional people opting to join the pension scheme. He was not trying to conceal any of the costs but draw attention to Members of the true picture.

Reservations were also expressed about the sum of £71,532 from the current year budget allocated to ensure a neutral budget (i.e. income and expenditure equalled out). Council would not be able to sustain this in future years. The Clerk stated that he had picked up as best way possible from minimal information available from the previous year, but the Council had agreed to a neutral budget therefore the sum was required within the current year budget.

Councillor D. Watson expressed concern that the Council could not sustain a constant access to reserves whilst salary budgets were approximately 2/3 of the overall Council expenditure in a year.

Councillor D. Watson also highlighted deficiencies in the Council website for Disabled Accessibility, and also within the website lack of presentation of Council income and expenditure. The Clerk, and Projects and Communications Officer agreed these items would be examined and rectified as appropriate.

Members were unsure about the calculation method being adopted for the following year, and some expressed a desire to abandon the meeting because of the unsurety regarding the sums shown on the documents.

After much discussion, it was decided that the Meeting continue with the proposed budget figures being scrutinised and agreed, with a further meeting to be scheduled in the following week to set the Precept figure.

Each allocation code was examined and discussed, and where possible, savings identified and figures reduced. The Clerk then set to amend as appropriate, re-collate the documents and present again the following week. He expressed concern that would be the extreme time limit as Bolsover District Council required the Council Precept request by 5<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at the absolute latest.

The meeting closed at 9.50 pm

Chairman.....

Date.....