

**Minutes of the Extraordinary MEETING of TIBSHELF PARISH COUNCIL
held remotely via Zoom,
on Tuesday 02nd February 2021 at 7.40pm**

Present:

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

In attendance:

Parish Clerk

2 members of the public.

NON-EXEMPT ITEMS

0221/2431 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from S. Wood.

Moved : to accept the apology.

Proposed by Cllr. A. Beckett, seconded by Cllr I. Brentnall. 9 Members voted in favour, 1 Member voted against.

0221/2432 Declarations of Members Interests

None declared

0221/2433 Public Speaking

There were no issues raised.

0221/2434 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman expressed concern that Councillor intentions seemed to be deliberately moving the Council off track from performing to best practice. She requested that actions designed to hamper decision making cease from this point forward.

At no time had any Councillor been instructed to contact the former Clerk, or other Councils / Councillors to discuss the business matters of Tibshelf Parish Council.

The statement was refuted by some Councillors, and heated discussion followed, until Cllr I. Brentnall made demand that the meeting concentrate on the business matters on the Agenda to discuss budgets and Precept.

The Chairman also announced that she had received written notice of the resignation of the Clerk and R.F.O., one month to conclude at the end of February 2021.

0221/2435 Revised budget consideration for year 2021 / 2022

Following the previous Extraordinary meeting of the Council, the Clerk had revised the budget figures and also adjusted the listing of £71,532 reserve allocation from current year 2020/2021 spending. It had been retained within the budget sum for the year, as it had previously been agreed in order to attain a "neutral budget" – i.e. income and expenditure as equal.

Although the sum was in position at the start of the year, underspend predicted at the end of March 2021 should see Council achieve a modest saving, so the reserve allocation becomes irrelevant.

There had also been some minor amendments to the estimated expenditure for January to March 2021.

Moving to the budget for year 2021/2022, the adjustments proposed at the previous meeting to the expenditure had seen a reduction overall and now totalled £224,650 (lowered by approximately £15,000).

There would still be a deficit of expenditure over income, without substantially increasing the Precept.

If the Precept were to be retained at the current year sum (£160,318), there would be a requirement to allocate £58,257 from reserves and thereby achieve a "neutral budget" (i.e. income and expenditure equalised).

Members discussed the options and agreed the Precept would not be increased substantially.

Councillor D. Watson stated that she would be unable to accept any Council budget that continually drew on Council reserves on a regular basis. She said that a review of the salary budget and staffing was needed within a few months, to re-assess Council operation and spending.

RESOLVED :

- (a) to adopt a neutral budget for year 2021 / 2022, i.e. income and expenditure equalled;
- (b) that the Precept sum of £160,318 is retained from year 2020 / 2021 and not increased;
- (c) that the sum of £58,257 be allocated from reserves in order to achieve the neutral budget;
- (d) that Council undertake a review of the staffing budget prior to July 2021, and a review of the finances at that time.

Proposed by Cllr I. Brentnall, seconded by Cllr R. Vaughan.

In a recorded vote Cllrs A. Beckett, P. Billington, I. Brentnall, M. Coupe, G. Foley, K. Salt, R. Vaughan and C. Whitehead all voted in favour.

Cllrs. R. Heffer and D. Watson abstained.

Councillor D. Watson wished it to be recorded that it is fundamentally wrong to approve a budget that approves expenditure over income, and dipping into reserves for a prolonged period would jeopardise the long term stability of the Parish Council funds.

0221/2436 Precept request for year 2021 / 2022

That Tibshelf Parish Council request a Precept sum of £160,318 for year 2021 / 2022 from Bolsover District Council.

This sum equates to a Band D equivalent of £130.22 for the ensuing year.

Proposed by Cllr I. Brentnall, seconded by Cllr R. Vaughan. ALL in favour

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....