



Ashington Parish Council

Finance Committee Meeting

Minutes of Ashington Parish Council Finance Committee Meeting held at 8.00pm on Wednesday 19th November 2014

Present: Councillors N Carver, M. Woolley, B Norton, N Clark and R Brennan

Parish Clerk: K Dare

Apologies: none

Members of the public: 0

Declarations of Interest: None

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the budget and precept for the forthcoming financial year (2015/2016).

The Clerk presented a budget and precept forecast document that she had prepared. Members of the committee had been provided with a copy of the document some days previously.

The Clerk's figures can be summarised thus:

Predicted income 2015/16	£15,120
Predicted expenditure 2014/15	£102,824
Deficit	£87,704
Current Precept	£90,956

Reserves are running at @51% of expected expenditure (target is @50%).

The following proposal was discussed:

The Council had agreed in June 2014 to establish an Earmarked Reserve for the capital cost of the Public Works Loan (£65,972), however, it was more prudent to increase this figure to the full amount of the remaining loan (capital and interest, £87,083). This is financially prudent because:

- The PWL is a debt that must be paid so creating an Earmarked Reserve to cover the full debt makes sense.
- By deducting the PWL payment from the Earmarked Reserve it is removed from normal day to day expenditure
- Funds are available to pay the loan off early should this become necessary.
- The Precept that the Council needs from HDC is £87,704 and last years' Precept was £90956 so the two figures match closely.
- The Council is trying to keep the Precept at the same level each year and avoid any significant ups and downs.

- f. For the last 2 years HDC have awarded a small grant (on top of the Precept) but this is diminishing year on year so the Precept needs to be equal to the budget deficit.

It was proposed that the budget be recommended for approval at the full Council meeting on 4th December and that the precept is set at the January Parish Council meeting to allow for further clarification of costs. Agreed.

Meeting finished at 8.20pm

Signed.....

Date.....