

WASHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL



Clerk to the Council.
Ms Zoe Savill.
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Finance Committee Meeting

MINUTES of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 8th January 2018

PRESENT: Cllrs C Beglan, L Britt (Chairman), P Heeley and R Thomas

ALSO: Clerk to the Council Zoe Savill

Members of the public: 0

Absent: Cllr Lockerbie

The Chairman opened the Meeting at 18:15

- 1. To consider accepting apologies for absence**
Apologies received from Cllr Lockerbie (holiday).
- 2. To record declarations of interest from members in any item to be discussed and agree dispensations**
None declared
- 3. To approve the Minutes of the last Finance Committee meeting held on 8th January, 2018**
The Minutes of the Meeting of 22nd May 2017 were agreed and duly signed by the Chairman
- 4. To Receive, Review and Recommend the draft budget and 2018-19 precept**
Members considered the draft budget requirements prepared by the Clerk, together with a summary of the current and Year End budget position.

The Chairman proposed amendments to the following cost centres:

- Recreation Ground maintenance: £8,000 to £6,000.
- Tree works (not the recreation ground): £3,000 to £1,000.
- Miscellaneous: £2000 to £500.
- Clerk's phone: £240 to £150.
- Office expenses: £2,000 to £1500
- Election costs: £2,000 to £0.00

These changes would reduce the budget operating requirement to £40,208.

The Chairman advised that there were significant increases in current expenditure for parish tree works and recreation improvements, and that these would be funded from current reserves. She confirmed that there will not be a council tax grant this year but an improved tax base figure of 1082 (number of householders) will result in a 2% increase in precept income, rising to £40,370 compared to £39,528 last year. Cleansing grant had also been increased slightly, and all together the council's predicted income totalled £42,699. Budgetted operating expenses were reduced after review, to £40,208 , leaving a surplus of £2491. The council retained healthy reserves of £57,529 and increased its General Fund balance to £10,000 (prev £5000)

Capital reserves of £10,000 have been allocated for new projects agreed by the Council in November.

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Council that the 2018-19 Precept is set at £40,370, and to approve the amended draft budget.

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend no increase in the Band D council tax for Washington householders of £37.30 from last year.

5. To Agree appointment of Internal Auditor for 2018-19

Councillors discussed the re-appointment of Mark Mulberry on the basis that he had provided full and detailed reports, his costs are very competitive, he has a solid financial background, and had provided the Clerk with pro-bono advice on a number of matters. He confirmed that his audit quotation would remain the same as last year.

It was **RESOLVED** to instruct Mark Mulberry to carry out the Council's 2018-19 audit.

There being no other business, the Meeting closed at 19:20hrs

Signed.....

Dated.....

Chairman