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EXTRAORDINARY FULL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD: 23 January 2023, 7.30pm
VENUE: Suite 3, 4 The Limes, Ingatestone

Present: Cllrs P Jeater (Chair) M Hart P Batchelor R Whittow-Williams

M Marston P Davey A Farrant B Bull
L Emmett R Lee D Sankey J Winter
Also present A Wood (Parish Clerk and RFO)

Absent Cllrs P Poston C Russell

FC23/014 Apologies for Absence – for noting but not approval

- Apologies were noted from Cllr Russell.
- Cllr Jeater took this opportunity to advise members that under the Local Government Act 1972 s85(1), Mr Pittman was no longer a parish councillor due to non-attendance of council meetings for a period of six months.

FC23/015 Announcements, declarations of Interest and dispensations

None were presented.

FC23/016 Public Participation

No members of the public were present

FC23/017 To approve the precept and set the budget for the 2023/24 financial year

Following a lengthy and detailed discussion, and acknowledgement that potential increases in the grounds maintenance contract for the new financial year are currently unknown, the following was agreed.

1. It was **RESOLVED that the Parish Council reserves policy be reduced to a total of £120,000** to consist of general and earmarked reserves. This level was agreed on the basis that the future grounds maintenance contract and other similar contracts include a legal condition that terminated the contract in the event of the council or the supplier ceasing to exist
Proposed: Cllr Hart
Seconded: Cllr Marston
All agreed.
2. It was **RESOLVED that the budget for 2023/24 be approved as presented and include only items of identified revenue expenditure and committed expenses.** It was further **RESOLVED that the planned capital expenditure and new projects be put on hold until May 2023.** At that point, the grounds maintenance contract will have been agreed and the council would be able to consider how to allocated any available funds. It was **RESOLVED that in May 2023, the newly elected council**

would meet to prioritise the planned capital expenditure and new projects for the rest of the financial year.

Proposed: Cllr Jeater

Seconded: Cllr Sankey

All agreed.

3. It was **RESOLVED that the precept for the 2023/24 financial year be set at £191,503.00** which is an 8% increase on the previous year. This equates to £79.05 per year on a Band D household (£5.86 increase pa), and £158.09 on a Band H household (£11.71 increase pa). It was recognised that the council was facing an increase in costs but that the financial situation of residents had also to be considered when setting this sum.

Proposed: Cllr Sankey

Seconded: Cllr Farrant

9 in favour, 2 against, 1 abstention – the vote was carried.

FC23/019 Close of meeting

The Chair thanked the councillors for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.55 pm.

Date of Next Council Meeting: Full Council meeting on Thursday, 9 February 2023, 7.30pm, Suite 3, 4 The Limes, Ingatestone, CM4 0BE