

ADOPTED

Minutes Holt Parish Council (PC) Meeting held at the Holt Village Hall on Thursday 15th November 2018 commencing at 1930 hours

This meeting was primarily to set the 2019/2020 Precept but also included 3 Agenda items in need of decisions prior to Full Council on 6th December 2018.

Present: Cllr. Becky Stevens (Chair) Cllr. Marsha Nicholson, Cllr. Richard Goodman, Cllr Bob Mizen, Cllr Andrew Pearce. Cllr Philip Game, Cllr S Siddall, Cllr Alan Hendon, Mr Neil Baker (Clerk)

In Attendance: 1 resident of Holt

1. Apologies: Cllr Dee Rickard

2. Open Meeting: None

3. Declarations of Interest: None

4. Purchase of Plants for Dawes Pond

Cllr Siddall outlined the proposal to spend £129.95 plus VAT to purchase plants to finish off the work at Dawes Pond. The plan is to screen the Bowls Club from view and enhance the wildlife habitat. A full list of plants to be purchased was provided which were chosen for the avian gourmet providing food for most of the year, to flower in the different seasons, hardy plants for any type of soil and will include a holly grove. The proposal by Cllr Siddall was seconded by Cllr Mizen and carried unanimously.

5. Purchase of Microsoft Software (Word/Excel/Powerpoint)

The Clerk referred to the requirement made prior to the meeting to purchase the software at a cost of £119.99. Following further investigations into the software provided with the new recently purchased Laptop, it was suggested that this may be enough for current needs and no additional purchase was considered necessary at this time. It was now suggested that the matter will be kept under review and if a purchase was necessary in the future the matter would be brought back to Full Council and a formal proposal put forward. This course of action was agreed.

6. Payment of Accounts

The following invoices were approved for payment. Proposed Cllr Goodman Seconded Cllr Mizen and approved unanimously

C N Baker	Clerk Wages (Net)	£296.10
HMRC	Tax on Wages	£74.00
Miles White	Production of Highways Plans	£468.00
Jonathan Nibbs	Pavilion storage	£113.89
R Prior	Caretakers Work/Brambles	£298.49

TOTAL

£1250.48

7. 2019/2020 Precept

Prior to the meeting Councillor Goodman had issued to all Councillors full details of Income and Expenditure. These details had been discussed at the recent Finance Committee and the conclusions and recommendation were now presented to Full Council. The 2 documents are presented at Annex A and Annex B to these minutes.

Following agreement at the Finance Committee, Cllr Goodman stated that he was proposing that the 2019/2020 Precept should be set at £25200 which was an increase of £4262 over 2018/2019. This represented an annual increase of £6.53 for each household.

The precept is based on the number of households within the parish, currently 682, but reducing to 676 in 2019/20.

Cllr Goodman took Council through the Annexes highlighting the main areas of increased expenditure requiring funding in 2019/2020.

It was stated that in previous years the precept had been set without taking a longer-term view of what is required in the village. The Neighbourhood Plan sets out what actions are required, and it was decided by the Finance Committee that the PC should now provide additional funds towards Village Development and a figure of £3000 had been agreed. The main points are as follows:

- To cover expected costs for 2019/20 without dipping into reserves would require setting a precept of £23,200 (£20,938 this year), an increase of just over 10%. However, as mentioned previously, we are proposing a one-off increase of £3,000 p.a. in the precept, to create a reserve to begin to fund the items set out in the Neighbourhood Plan.
- The above results in maintaining the General Reserve at c.£27k and increasing the VDF to c.£20k by 31 March 2020. At £27k the level of the General Reserve is just outside the top end of our Reserves Policy, so there is scope to run a small deficit in 2019/20 to bring this within guidelines
- The impact on the average Band D household is an increase of £6.53 p.a. to £37.23.

Other factors considered included a projected overspend of £710 in the current financial year

Chair Cllr Stevens thanked Cllr Goodman for his presentation and opened the meeting to questions.

Cllr Game represented a comment from Cllr Rickard saying she felt that we should invest as much as possible into Village Facilities and not be constrained by Finance. Cllr Mizen advised that expense could be contained within the proposed budget.

A brief discussion took place regarding the Orchard Fund when it was stated that approximately £1200-£1400 was to be spent on equipment for fruit processing, some

funds were being kept in reserve and any additional funds would be raised through donations. In short there were no funds required through the precept.

Monies would be required through the precept as both Cllr Game and Cllr Pearce advised that it was unlikely that the PC would receive any significant funding through B Cat G. There was only £10000 in total available within the Bradford on Avon area for minor projects and none available for Holt in 2018/2019. Early bids would be required for 2019/2020.

Subject to the proposal being carried Cllr Goodman would prepare an article for the Holt Magazine.

The proposal was seconded by Cllr Nicholson and carried unanimously

The meeting closed at 2010 hrs

The next meeting of Full Council will be held on Thursday 6th December 2018, commencing at 7.00 pm (note change of time) at the Village Hall

Neil Baker

Clerk to Holt Parish Council

