

**MINUTES
of the
BRADFORD & COOKBURY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Held on

Thursday 24th November 2022 at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllrs: Mark Smale, Ann Richmond, Elizabeth Chandler,
Rebekah Allan, David Higgins, Terri Higgins.

Also present: Parish Clerk/RFO: Lindsay Dearing.

AGENDA

- 1) **a) Elect a chairperson for this meeting.** Cllr. Smale took the chair.
b) Receive any apologies of absence: N. Langley, A. Oke, D. Bowman.
- 2) **Declarations of Interest and dispensations.**
 - a) **To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda.**
 - b) **To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any).** None.
 - c) **To grant any dispensations as appropriate.** None.
- 3) **It was resolved that the draft minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 28 September 2022 (circulated to members) are a correct record and were signed by the chair.**

4) **Items for discussion:**

a) Donation requests from:

North Devon Records Office: Donation of £100 was proposed by Cllr. Richmond; seconded Cllr. D. Higgins. Vote: Unanimous.

The Plough Arts Centre, Torrington. Request declined as the Plough has since informed the PC that it has been awarded a large Arts Council grant.

b) Cllr. Smale : Proposal for 2 electric vehicle charging points to be installed at the Village Hall, funded by the PC.

That the PC use some of the Vaglefield CB fund to pay for the installation of two charging points at the hall at a provisional nett cost of £2741 was agreed in principal. Cllr. Smale will approach the Village Hall Committee meeting in January with this offer.

5) **FINANCE**

a) Precept and budget proposals for 2023/24

The 3 proposals* supplied by the clerk were discussed. The half-inflation rate proposal of 5% was favoured and would mean an increase of £275 (5.26%) to give a precept requirement of £5500 for 2023/24. Proposed: Cllr. T. Higgins, Seconded; Cllr. Richmond. Vote: Unanimous.

**A copy of the budget proposals will be attached to these minutes.*

b) Monthly account spreadsheets for review and approval.

These were reviewed and that they be approved as a true and accurate record: Proposed: Cllr. Chandler; Seconded; Cllr. Richmond. Vote: Unanimous.

c) Confirmation of earlier transfers to Nifty for web hosting and domain renewal
were approved, and signed by the Chairman.

d) Confirmation of earlier transfer to Black Dog framing
was approved, and signed by the Chairman.

e) Confirmation of earlier transfer for stationary.
was approved, and signed by the Chairman.

6) PLANNING

a) 1/0870/2022/FUL. Erection of 2 dwellings, The Firs, Brandis Corner. EX22 7XZ.

It was noted from the plan that the entrance onto the A3072 will be directly opposite the proposed development 1/0779/2020/OUT. As the PC had earlier raised access issues onto the main road with the earlier application, especially as they are close to the Brandis Corner junction, the council would like to know what Devon Highways will make of it having stated their concerns about the sight lines and splays.

b) 1/1043/2022/FUL. Erection of shed for machinery storage. Land adjacent to Priestacott House, Bradford. No comments.

7) CORRESPONDENCE : Any correspondence received since agenda produced. None.

Cllr. Richmond asked if a sign promoting events at the village hall might be useful. If the hall committee was in favour, any proposed location would have to be a safe one. Cllr. Smale will raise the idea at the next Hall Committee meeting. The clerk informed the meeting that the May elections are now 6 months away and no councillor vacancies can be co-opted during this 'purdah' period.

Date of next meeting: 26 January 2023

Close of meeting: 8.15 pm

signed.....

date

Bradford & Cookbury Parish Council

Precept: Budget Requirement Forecast 2023/24

@ November 2022

Current Precept: £5225

Suggested precept for 2023/24 : Option 1 : £5225 0%

Option 2 : £5500 +5%

Option 3 : £5750 +10%

Predicted expenditure:

Administration and wages £2800

DALC £140

Insurance £370

Hall Hire £150

Web site & IT £160

ICO £35

Parish Grants/Donations £1500

Includes £300 HRTC

and £150 Shebbear Flood warning)

Total £5155 (Option1)

NOTES

Inflation at 10% is the main concern. If we maintain the current precept of £5225 and reduce the 2022/2223 Annual grants target to £1500 (This is a reaction to reduced requests i.e. £750 @ November 2022, possibly due to the CB Funds also available) so increase to the precept would not be required.

A half inflation rate increase on current precept would be:
@ 5.26% = £5500. (Option 2)

A full inflation rate increase @10% = £5750 (Option 3)

Increased annual commitments to Shebbear PC (£150) and Holsworthy RTC (£300) are budgeted, as are expected higher costs for Insurance and IT.

PC reserves currently at £3000, although inflation will reduce this value in real terms. In addition we have a grant of £600 for the road warden to spend or be reallocated, as well as the Vaglefield CB Fund, currently at £6135, and the Dunsland CB Fund at £27408 (@November 2022). Next year's Dunsland CBF receipt will be much larger due to the RPI calculation in January.

Any shortfall in funds could be met from reserves, which are currently at £3000 (November 2022), or from our two CB Funds, where appropriate.

No audit fee expected on current income/expenditure.
VAT payments will continue to be reclaimed, where possible