

Woodchester Parish Council

Clerk: Ann Bijkerk

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Minutes of the Finance Meeting held in the Village Hall on 7th January, 2016 at 6.30pm

Present: Cllrs. Swait, Hamilton, Warnes and Baynham-Honri.

In attendance: The clerk and two members of the public

- 2016/1 To receive apologies for absence.**
There were no apologies for absence.
- 2016/2 To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda.**
There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda.
- 2016/3 To approve the minutes of 8th January, 2015.**
These were approved by councillors and signed as a true record by Cllr. Swait.
- 2016/4 To discuss Stroud District Council's (SDC) plans for Local Council Tax Support funding for 2016/17 and future years and to agree any response.**
The clerk outlined the history of the Local Council Tax Support funding and how the process was carried out in 2013. Parish Councils were told initially that the funding would be reduced each year for three years in line with Government funding and that these grants would cease altogether in 2016/17. The clerk had received a letter from Wotton-Under-Edge Town Council expressing dismay that SDC are not continuing to pay a grant to local councils. However SDC has not yet made any final decisions regarding 2017/18 and beyond. It was agreed that no response be sent at this time.
- 2016/5 To review budget versus expenditure for 2015/16.**
The predicted expenditure for this period is £1200 lower than budgeted, due in part to a significantly lower insurance premium for 2015. The cost of equipment was £384 over budget as two new noticeboards have been purchased this year as well as seats for bus shelters and a new bin. The combined cost of purchase and installation of the notice boards was higher than budgeted.
- 2016/6 To discuss and agree a budget for financial year 2016/17.**
The clerk put forward a proposed budget for 2016/17. It was suggested and agreed that the budget for equipment be raised to £700 giving an overall budget of £12,250.
£1000 of reserves were earmarked for possible election costs and £21,000 for the mountain bike trails.
- 2016/7 To discuss and agree the precept required for financial year 2016/17.**
In 2015/16 the Local Council Tax Support Funding of £381 was received from

Stroud District Council. This money will not be paid in 2016/17 and therefore if precept remains at £10,557 the predicted shortfall is £1693.

Due to the grant not being paid in 2016/17 and other contributing factors, the tax base for Woodchester will rise.

Councillors agreed to increase the precept by £193 to £10,750.

Because of the increase in the tax base, this increase in precept will mean that residents will pay the same Council Tax contribution for Woodchester in 2016/17 as 2015/16.

Even with an increased precept and income from a VAT refund and bank interest there will be a shortfall in the budget of £1190 which it was agreed will be taken from reserves.

2016/8 To receive comments from members of the public on items discussed at this meeting.

There were no comments from members of the public.

The meeting closed at 6.55pm.

Signed

Date.....