



TO ALL ELECTORS OF SHEVINGTON PARISH

# PC FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

THURSDAY 7 JANUARY – 7 P.M.  
SHEVINGTON LIBRARY

## AGENDA

1. **Apologies** – to receive apologies from Committee members.
2. **Declaration of Interests** - to receive any declarations of interest (prejudicial or otherwise) with regard to items on the Agenda.
3. **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests & Precept Setting – for Information** (enclosed)  
Members who were elected councillors in 2011 will recall that there was concern that, as a result of the 2011 Localism Act, any member who was liable to pay the local parish precept levied by the Council on which he/she served, would have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in the precept setting process. Following advice received from the Council's advisory bodies and Wigan Council's Monitoring Officer at the time, most members applied for and were given dispensations for the full four years of their terms of office to set the precept. Nationally legal opinion with respect to whether a DPI applied in this situation differed and the DCLG were asked to clarify the position. Enclosed is a copy of the current DCLG Guidance on interests, which was included in the pack given to members on election in 2015. The Guidance on this subject is to be found on Pages 7 – 8 and is highlighted. Members should note that they are no longer considered by the DCLG to have a DPI with regard to the setting of a precept or in the local arrangements for Council Tax Support grant and do not, therefore, need a dispensation to be involved in these activities.
4. **Minutes of the Last Finance Committee Meeting (3 December 2015)** - to consider, agree and approve the signature of the previously circulated Minutes by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting.
5. **DRAFT Budget 2016/17 (v3) – for consideration and recommendation** (enclosed)  
The DRAFT budget has been updated in line with decisions made by the Committee in December, the Council's known financial commitments and current policy. Papers circulated for the previous two Finance Committee meetings should provide a recap in

relation to cost centres, etc, if one is needed. Several papers are enclosed for members' information.

Members are invited to discuss and agree the DRAFT budget for recommendation to the full Council for approval.

**6. Precept 2016 – for recommendation** (enclosed)

Members are invited to agree a precept for recommendation to the Council for approval.

**7. New Audit Regime – for recommendation** (enclosed)

Enclosed is a document published by the DCLG explaining the new audit regime which began to be gradually introduced earlier this year and will come into full being for FY2017. This Council falls under the banner of 'non-exempt' smaller authorities. In practice the Council will still need to appoint an internal auditor as before. However, beginning with FY 2017, the Council will need to either a) choose to use the appointing body's auditor appointment arrangements or b) choose to opt out of those arrangements and make their own arrangements.

If the Council go for Option b) they have to:

- take the decision at full council;
- notify the appointing body of their decision by a set deadline;
- establish an independent auditor panel to advise on the appointment of the auditor;
- procure an auditor either alone or collectively with others.

Non-exempt smaller authorities that use the appointing body's arrangements will not need to establish an independent auditor panel and will have an auditor appointed for them.

Central government have agreed to allow a sector-led body to procure external audit services on behalf of parish councils. The enclosed notification explains what needs to be done at this moment in time if the Council decides to go for Option a) – i.e. nothing, as the Council are members of the National Association of Local Councils.

At present the costs are unknown, but are likely to be similar to those levied currently (about £300 per year), since this will be a bulk buy. However, opting in should save the Council a great deal of administrative time.

Members are invited to consider the invitation to opt in/opt out and make a recommendation to the full Council for its approval.

**8. Dates of Next Meetings:** 21 January (Council); 4 February (Policy Committee).

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*K Pilkington*

Clerk to the Parish Council