

**Minutes of Shevington Parish Council
Finance Committee Meeting
Held Wednesday 12 January 2022
7pm – Virtual Meeting**

Present: Councillor William McKnight (Chairman), Councillors Christopher Horridge, Ira Whiteley, John Whiteley, Michael Crosby, Michael Grimes, Jessica Higham and Vicky Galligan

Two members of the public

Officer in Attendance: Mrs Krystyna Pilkington (Clerk)

1. Apologies

Cllr John Ball

2. Declaration of Interests

None.

3. Minutes of the Last Finance Committee Meeting (1 December 2022)

Resolved: The Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 1 December 2022 were approved as a true and correct record.

4. Draft Budget & Precept 2022-23

Previously circulated papers relating to the draft proposals for the budget and precept for 2022-23 were received and discussed. The papers covering the draft budget had originally been circulated to the Finance Committee for its meeting on 1 December 2021 and had been updated to reflect expenditure in December.

The Clerk reported that Wigan Council had recently confirmed that the Parish Council would receive a Council Tax Support Grant in 2022 and that the grant would be £8,813 - as in past years. This would be subject to review in twelve months' time.

The LA's Council Tax Department had calculated and shared the 2022-23 tax base for the Parish. Hence the supporting papers for the proposals for the precept for 2022-23 had included an impact assessment of precept increases on households in different bands.

Annual inflation had been calculated in October to be running at 4.2%. More recently it had been calculated as running at 5.1%. All cost centres in the draft budget document had been increased by a range of percentages, where appropriate, to demonstrate the impact of different inflation-linked increases on the budget. Projected end of year balances had been included in a column within the document.

Cllr Jessica Higham joined the meeting.

The 'Loan Repayment' cost centre had been increased in 2021 by the amount repayable this financial year for the new loan, assuming the Parish Council were permitted to borrow the funds and the full amount was drawn down. As the outcome of the borrowing approval application was unknown, this had remained unchanged.

In reply to observations made by members, the Clerk advised the MHCLG would not make a decision with respect to the borrowing approval until they had received written confirmation about whether planning permission would be required for the drainage works to go ahead. The Clerk was asked to try to establish this and to find out whether United Utilities would permit surface water to be removed from Memorial Park via the outlet in Shevington Lane.

Members suggested that agendas for future meetings should include

- a cost saving exercise, which should involve considering going paperless
- a review of the need to run two websites and
- other ways of raising funds.

Resolved: The Committee recommended a budgeted expenditure of £94,787 (*including Expenditure Contingency*) and a precept of £80,651 to the Council for approval. The budgeted expenditure would be subject to adjustment throughout the year as new or renewed contracts were agreed.

5. January Newsletter

The text for the January newsletter had been circulated to members electronically prior to the meeting. As the deadline for submitting copy to the printer had been Monday, 10 January, members had been asked to forward comments to the Clerk before that day. The Clerk reported that, as she had not received any comments, the proofs had been sent to the printer.

Resolved: The text for the January edition of the newsletter was recommended for retrospective approval.

6. Financial Aid Applications

None

7. Dates of Next Meetings

26 January (Council); 2 February (Policy & General Purposes Committee)

Members discussed whether the Council meeting should be held face-to-face or virtually and agreed that, in view of the fact that officers of Wigan Council would be joining the meeting and the continuing high Omicron infection rates, the meeting would be held virtually.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the Meeting at 8:10 pm

Chairman