



## Report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2022 at 7:30pm

**PRESENT** Cllr. J Britt Chairman presiding.  
Cllrs. M Cockett, P Culver, K Hammond, N Osborne & A Ratcliffe  
J Bate (RFO) & L Westcott (clerk)

### **Public Participation:**

No members of the public present.

#### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies received and accepted from Cllr. A Walmsley.

#### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON THE AGENDA**

No declarations received.

#### **3. MINUTES FROM F&GP 16<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2022**

The minutes of the F&GP meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022 were agreed as being accurate.

#### **4. FINANCIAL REPORT (by RFO J Bate)**

##### **a. Current budget update**

- i. **Budget projections to year end** – J Bate reported that current projections meant the budget will be approximately £6000 overspent by year end. Cllrs. agreed that due to energy bills and the costs associated with the MBC Local Plan, this was within margins.

##### **b. Setting the budget for 23/24**

###### **i. Budget line items to determine precept**

J Bate presented the current calculations for the 23/24 budget.

Cllr. M Cockett stated that it is important that the contingency is large enough for unknown expenses, such as those incurred this year due to increased core costs and the costs arising from the MBC Local Plan Review. J Bate reported the current amount is only 2% of the budget.

Cllr. N Osborne stated that the known income is not included and other councils include “likely income” to lower the precept. J Bate recommends that the income is not included as it is not guaranteed.

Following a discussion, it was agreed to recommend including £20,000 on the income line to offset some of the additional costs.

Budget lines were reviewed and updated with a final precept figure of **£228,730**

In addition to anticipating increased core costs for service delivery, time was spent discussing how much money should be allocated for planning work, to include likely appeals for current planning proposals as well as the ongoing response to the MBC Local Plan (addressing the issue related to Heathlands).

It was agreed to recommend allocating £40,000 from the precept and £20,000 from reserves so the total budget for planning work will be £60,000, this figure is based on expenditure in 2022/23.

This makes the recommendation for a precept rise by **16%** for a band D property.

Cllr. N Osborne asked if such an increase was fair with the current cost of living crisis and with the opening of a food bank in the village.

L Westcott advised Cllrs. that LPC will need to justify such an increase to the public and they should be prepared for this.

Chair took a vote for a rise of **16%** for a band D property to the precept:  
FOR - Cllrs. J Britt, M Cockett, P Culver, K Hammond & A Ratcliffe  
ABSTAIN – Cllr. N Osborne

**ACTION** J Bate to circulate budget information.

**All other agenda items suspended as time ran out.**

**The meeting closed at 22:10**