

PEWSEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL
HELD IN THE PARISH OFFICE, BOUVERIE HALL, PEWSEY
ON 8th JANUARY 2020 at 7.00pm

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Cllr Haskell (Chairman), Cllr Smith, Cllrs Mrs Dalrymple, Ann Hogg, Mrs Hunt, Kerry Pycroft, Mrs Saunders, Mrs Stevens, Cllrs Carder, Deck, Del Mar, Eyles, Ford, Giles, Hagan, McGarry, Morris, Smithers and Stevens.
<u>IN ATTENDANCE:</u>	Alison Kent (Clerk), Cllr Kunkler and members of the public.
<u>EO/1 APOLOGIES:</u>	Cllr Mrs Carmichael-Owen.
<u>EO/2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST:</u>	None.
<u>EO/3 SERVICE DEVOLUTION AND ASSET TRANSFER - PUBLIC INFORMATION:</u>	Cllr Haskell invited questions from members of the public. One commented that it was regretful that more members of the public had not attended. Cllr Carder reminded the meeting that a public meeting had been held. Cllr Haskell stated the council would seek every possibility to engage with the public and continue its promise to be transparent. A statement on the outcome of this meeting would be made available to the public the following day through every source available.
<u>EO/4 SERVICE DEVOLUTION AND ASSET TRANSFER:</u>	<p>Cllr Haskell proposed to move Standing Order 8.1.17 which suspends Standing Orders without notice in order to allow the Parish Council to obtain one quotation only in relation to the merged street scene and grounds maintenance contract due to extraordinary circumstances, seconded Cllr Eyles, 18 for, 1 against</p> <p>The Scope of Works and associated costs had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting. Cllr Morris asked about the provision of bin emptying and collection of street litter. Cllr Ann Hogg responded that the clause covered all litter bins but only during the week. The Parish Council employee would be retained for weekend collection as it was more cost-effective following receipt of the quotation for weekend work.</p> <p>Cllr Haskell stated that the way the document was worded allowed for flexibility within the contract to decrease or increase the level of service required.</p> <p>Cllr Kerry Pycroft checked whether the weekly play area inspections presently undertaken by some members would now not be required; Cllr Stevens affirmed members would no longer be needed to do this, any significant repairs would be notified to the Parish Council. The contract also allowed for a litter pick in the play area and annual lubrication of running parts.</p> <p>All location plans were in the office folder.</p> <p>Cllr Mrs Saunders asked if the disposal costs escalated would this come back on the Parish Council, Cllr Haskell stated that the disposal of household litter national legislation currently remained with Wiltshire Council.</p> <p>Cllr Ford asked about flytipping; this would be cleared up to 3m³. If above this amount then the Parish Council would need to decide whether to pay. There is a risk and the Parish Council would need to speak with Wiltshire Council about hazardous waste.</p> <p>The document was not the formal contract which would be presented at a future meeting when available.</p>

	<p>Cllr Haskell proposed to accept the merged street scene and grounds maintenance contract from Idverde as per the Scope of Works and supporting figures, with effect from 1st April 2020 for a period of 3 years (increased annually by RPI), subject to satisfactory completion of work, seconded Cllr McGarry, 18 for, 1 against.</p>	
<p><u>EO/5 PRECEPT 2020/21:</u></p>	<p>Cllr Haskell explained that there had been no alternative but to leave setting the precept until now as there had not been enough financial information available.</p> <p>The good financial management of the Parish Council over a long period of time had set a good position. The restructuring of the council to enhance the parish had achieved some things and not others with the bold step taken to contract for a Village Ranger which had been funded through the reserves for 2019/20. There was also more tree work required which would be costed for. For 2020/21 the Parish Council would be requiring an increase of around 60% in order to fund its proposed activities. The SDAT team had negotiated very hard on the contract and had managed to reduce the original quotation by 50%, mostly due to the great work from Cllr Eyles and Cllr McGarry on streamlining the level of service. This level of increase would not be proposed as a promise was made to the community to absorb whatever increase was necessary.</p> <p>Cllr Morris asked what guidance was given from the Government as to what level of reserves was acceptable. Cllr Haskell advised there wasn't a set level but general guidance between 40-50% of the current precept. The earmarked reserves for the Beresford fund, Community Land Trust and defibrillators funds could not be touched. He had hoped to have spread the increase over a period of time but did not think this could now be done. The precept had only been increased by 5% last year when it should have been higher.</p> <p>Cllr Ford suggested a 3 year period to build up reserve again which would be in line with the new contract. The burial income had been removed as this was considered too fluid; the only permanent figure was rental income from the tenant clubs and allotments. The Village Ranger budget had remained the same.</p> <p>Cllr Haskell would be recommending to increase the precept by 25% with the remaining budget funded from the reserves.</p> <p>Cllr Deck commented that Wiltshire Council, the Police and Fire Authorities would also be increasing their precepts. Cllr Kunkler suggested Wiltshire Council would be increasing theirs by 2.99% plus the 2% for adult and social services with the overall impact being in the region of £83 per annum on a band D property. Cllr Morris was concerned that the Parish Council could not continue to use its reserves to fund these increased expenses and people should be made aware that similar precept increases would be needed in future years, or consideration given to cuts in the level of service provided.</p> <p>Cllr Del Mar felt that the public would be happy to pay a fair amount for the services delivered. Cllr Mrs Saunders stated the Parish Council had moved into being responsible for procurement and service delivery. Regular information should be produced, and it was accepted that better contract management would be needed.</p>	

	<p>Cllr Haskell proposed to vire earmarked reserves to the value of £30,000 into the general fund to assist with the funding of the Idverde and Village Ranger contracts, seconded Cllr Mrs Hunt, 18 for, 1 against.</p> <p>Cllr Haskell proposed to raise the precept for 2020/21 to £127,312, being an increase of 25%, equivalent to 31p a week for a Band D property, seconded Cllr Ann Hogg, 17 for, 2 against.</p>	
<u>EO/6 ITEMS VIA THE CLERK:</u>	<p>Quotations had been obtained for the Phase 3 tree works in the Recreation Ground, cemetery and Angela Yeates Memorial Ground.</p> <p>Three quotations had been received and it was proposed by Cllr Eyles to award the contract for the cemetery to Conservation Contractors and the contract for the Recreation Ground and Angela Yeates Memorial Ground to Wiltshire Countryside, seconded Cllr Deck, all in favour.</p>	

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.06pm after thanking everyone for attending.

Signed..... Date.....