

SCARISBRICK PARISH COUNCIL.

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Smithy Lane on Monday 20th January 2020

PRESENT.

Councillor J. Herbert (in the Chair)
Councillor G.Holcroft
Councillor Makin
Councillor Williams
Councillor J. Marshall

Councillor C. Herbert
Councillor A. Blundell
Councillor C. Marshall
Councillor M Andrews

Mr G. Fairbrother (Clerk – in attendance)

No members of the public were present.

20/1...APOLOGIES: to receive apologies and approve reasons for absence

No apologies received

20/2...DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: (a) to declare any disclosable pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest in matters on the agenda; (b) to consider requests for dispensation

None

20/3...MINUTES: to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 6th January 2020.

It was resolved to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 6th January 2020.

20/5...ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING: to allow a period of public discussion

As no members of the public were present the meeting was not adjourned.

20/6...TO AGREE THE BUDGET FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2020/21: documents have been circulated.

The Council discussed the budget for the next financial year.

Councillor Herbert explained the reasoning behind the need to have a reserve. This included the requirement to be able to meet six months anticipated expenditure, potential insurance excess costs and the anticipated cost of a contested election. A surplus of £2000 was anticipated for the current financial year. The Council took in consideration the legal requirement for a reserve, the aim to reduce the burden on the precept and the practical cash flow issues.

It was felt that the appropriate figure could be set without contributing to reserves.

It was agreed to set the Reserves at £23500



The Council noted that the Clerks Salary was likely to reach the threshold for auto-enrolment into a pension scheme in the next financial year. The Council noted that the Government had made a commitment to raise Public Sector workers wages above the current CPI figure and that the Staff side had asked for a 10% pay rise to offset the below inflation increases set during austerity. The Council also noted that the Clerk may receive a two point increase this year. A figure of £12150 was appropriate.

The Council noted that the Clerks expenses was under budget. The Clerk explained that this was due to reduced mileage, assigning costs to the appropriate budget and a cost effective purchasing approach. The budget for 2020/21 was set at £500.

The Council noted that, within the General Administration budget, some of the higher cost items had been fixed for next financial year and cost effective purchasing had kept costs to a minimum. The budget remains at £3000.

The Council noted that grants and donations recipients are similar each year. As a consequence, it is anticipated that a similar total will be dispersed in the next year. The budget will be £1700.

The Clerk pointed out that the Bus Shelter budget was used for repairs, but also included some project costs. In addition, current maintenance costs are assigned to the General Administration budget. The Clerk suggested that this budget should be renamed as a 'Maintainance' budget and used for all repairs and general maintenance of Council property. The Council set a budget of £1500 to include all maintainance costs. The budget will be renamed as a 'Maintainance'.

The Council noted that Training is not currently budgeted for. A new budget of 'Training' will be allocated with an initial allocation of £500.

Grass cutting is a fixed cost contract with a further year to run. The cost remains at £2736.

The Council discussed potential projects and allocated £5000 to this budget. The supported projects will be agreed at a future Council meeting.

	Actual Previous year (2018/19)	Budget Current Year (2019/20)	Probable Current Year	Variance (%) Red = Increase	Budget Next Year (2020/21)
Expenditure:					
Clerk's salary	£9,568.73	£11,500.00	£10,800.00	-6.09	£12,150.00
Clerk's expenses	£440.86	£600.00	£315.00	-47.50	£500.00
General administration	£3,448.45	£3,000.00	£2,800.00	-6.67	£3,000.00

Donations, Grants, Section137	£350.00	£1,300.00	£1,080.00	-16.92	£1,700.00
Bus shelters Noticeboards Seats/Signs ("Maintainance" for the 20/21 year)	£4,164.50	£1,300.00	£90.00	-93.08	£1,500.00
Training	£0.00	£0.00	£25.00		£500.00
Grass cutting/bulbs	£2,736.00	£2,736.00	£2,736.00	0.00	£2,736.00
Projects	£1,939.70	£2,500.00	£2,500.00	0.00	£5,000.00
TOTAL	£22,648.24	£22,936.00	£20,346.00		£27,086.00

Income:					
Concurrent Expenditure Grant (WLBC)			£2,817.00		£2,817.00
TOTAL			£2,817.00		£2,817.00
CONTRIBUTION TO RESERVES =					0
AMOUNT REQUIRED =					£24,269.00
LESS COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT GRANT =					£949
AMOUNT TO BE RAISED =					£23,320.00
			Taxbase		£1,355.06
PRECEPT =					£17.21

It was resolved, unanimously, to set a budget of £27086 for the financial year 2020/2021

20/7...TO FIX THE PRECEPT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2020/21: documents have been circulated.

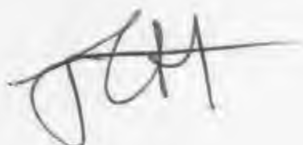
Based on a budget of £27036, a Concurrent Grant of £2817, a Council Tax support grant of £949 and using a taxbase of £1355.06, the precept will be £17.21.

The represents an increase of £1.60 (approx. 3p per week) on the precept set for 2019/20 (£15.61)

It was unanimously resolved to set the precept at £17.21

20/8.. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS: To receive requests for future agenda items

Councillor Marshall asked for "Our Lancashire" to be invited to the AGM to speak.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JGM', is located in the center of the page.