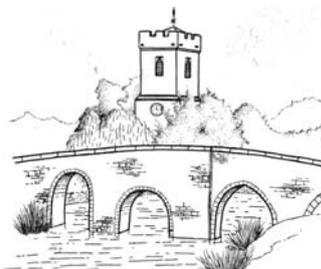


BIDFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL

In the County of Warwickshire



Minutes the Finance and Strategy Committee held on Monday 14th January 2013 @ 8.05 pm (after the Planning Committee meeting) at the Parish Council Meeting Room, Bramley Way

PRESENT:

Chairman: Cllr. Gerrard
Cllrs. Atkins, Fleming, Harvey, Mrs. Keeley, Pound, Spiers and Squires

In attendance: Vaughan Hully, Responsible Financial Officer and Elisabeth Uggerløse, Clerk to the Parish Council

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies received, and accepted, from Cllr. Mrs. Randell

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

All members of the Council are respectfully reminded that in order to comply with the Code of Conduct adopted by the Parish Council on 30th July 2012, if any matter arises during the meeting in which they have Declared an Interest, which could be personal or prejudicial, they should declare so and leave the room.

Members were also reminded that the Council had resolved in December 2012 that members should apply for a Dispensation to enable them to set a precept as recommended by NALC.

Cllrs. Gerrard, Harvey, Hiscocks, Mrs. Keeley and Spiers all declared they had applied for dispensation to enable them to set a precept, which had been granted.

3. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20TH DECEMBER 2012

Proposed by Cllr. Harvey as being accurate and signed by the Chairman of the Committee.

4. PUBLIC FORUM

None present

5. TO CONSIDER BUDGET/PRECEPT FOR 2013/14 (information circulated)

The Chairman opened the discussion by drawing attention to the new circumstances due to the changes in the Council Tax Benefit system, which would result in the Parish Council receiving a lower precept. However, members should note that at least for 2013/14, this shortfall would be met in full by a SDC grant: this means that for the financial year 2013/14 there would be no adverse financial consequences for the Parish Council.

It was important that Members note that this grant is not guaranteed for future years, and it could result in the Parish Council having to consider substantial increases in the future. Changes to legislation could also mean having to hold a referendum should the increase in the precept be higher than that recommended by Government.

- The importance of having sufficient reserve funds was raised
- Councillors should be aware that they would have to consider whether some of the services it offered would have to be withdrawn, or curtailed, if it could no longer be afforded
- Under the current financial circumstances of many of the residents (salaries not rising, redundancies being served etc.) the council should seriously consider the precept being set, whilst making sure adequate reserves were maintained.

Taking all the comments into account, the Chairman proposed a precept of £187,100 and an unchanged rate.

RESOLVED to recommend a precept of £187,100 for the financial year 2013/14.

The meeting closed at approx.. 8.30 p.m.