

## WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 29 March 2022 in Burditch Hall, Wootton

#### Present

Cllrs J Thomas (Chairman), F Bates, M Eccles-Williams, J Harwood, J Hoare, A Molyneux, J Salter.

The meeting opened at 7.30 pm

**1 Apologies** There were none

**2 Disclosure of interests** There were none

**3 Budget 2022-23** The Chairman introduced the report in her and Cllr Harwood's names proposing the draft budget for the financial year 2022-23. [A copy of the budget report to be attached to the official record of this meeting.]

During the discussion the following points were noted.

(i) The income for the year was already set, the Precept demand having been sent to WODC in November in advance of the budget being set. The draft budget before the Council represented a small increase on the current year's budget, but was materially in excess of the Council's anticipated income. Accordingly, a draw-down from the Council's reserves would be required in order to ensure the budget was balanced.

(ii) There are considerable cost pressures on the budget which had been drafted to take account of these as far as possible, but some of the pressures might prove to be greater than the provision made, and unforeseen costs might still arise so a further draw-down from reserves might be necessary. Among these was the possibility of having to provide equipment for the incoming clerk.

(iii) More favourably, the inherited reserves are in a reasonably healthy state and have been supplemented by the material under-spending in the current year's budget. These have arisen due to various factors including the vacancy of the Clerk/RFO, and a lower than anticipated grant to a parish organisation.

(iv) The banking arrangements needed to be sorted out urgently to take account of the changes in key personnel and to comply with best practice. This will be pursued by the Chairman, Cllr Harwood and the advisory clerk.

(v) The importance of support for the Jubilee celebrations in the village was reaffirmed. In particular, the contribution from the Marlborough family was gratefully acknowledged; the £250 contribution (matching the OCC grant) was confirmed; it was also agreed to make the Burditch Hall available over the period 2-6 June for use as part of the Jubilee celebrations, and a further

contingency of £250 was allocated to take account of hall costs arising from this such as electricity, etc.

(vi) Insurances; While this budget head had been increased to take account of the insurance of the Burditch hall, and it was confirmed that the premium for the hall insurance had been paid, there was some doubt about the extent of other cover. Moreover, the Burditch hall electrical system might need to be checked in order to comply with the cover conditions. It was agreed that this and the extent of cover overall should be further investigated by the Chairman and Cllr Harwood.

(vii) Finally, it was noted that expenditure would need to be carefully monitored during the coming year and the position reviewed in the autumn when, spending plans for 2023-24 would need to be decided. Basing spending plans on material drawing down from reserves was a short term expedient only. The autumn discussions on the spending plans for 2023-24 would need to consider the need for an increase in the Precept and/or significant reductions in expenditure.

Cllr Harwood proposed, Cllr Eccles-Williams seconded

***That the draft budget for 2022-23 as set out in the submitted report, and amended in line with para (v) above, be approved.***

This was put to a vote and resolved accordingly.

The budget as approved is as follows:

	2022-23	2021-22
<i>Income</i>		
Precept from council tax	8,932	8,800
<u>OCC Grass cutting grant</u>	<u>544</u>	<u>544</u>
<i>Total</i>	9,476	9,344
<i>Governance, Administration &amp; services</i>		
Staff	2,500	1,200
Honorarium	0	150
Donation	0	500
Elections	75	100
Audit	120	120
Insurance	2,000	1,020
Website	400	400
Hall hire	100	100
Memberships	250	250
Rospa Inspection	100	100
Tractor maintenance	100	100

Grass cutting	2,000	1,800
Defibrillator	50	250
Legal fees	1,500	0
Specials	0	1,000
Misc & Sundry	0	400
<i>Total</i>	9,195	7,490

*Grants to local organisations*

Outreach		500
Platinum Jubilee	250+250 contingency*	0
Wootton School		2,250
Wootton Playing Field		900
Wootton Sports Club		700
Wootton church		750
<i>Total</i>	4,350	5,100
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13,545</b>	<b>12,590</b>

*To be drawn from reserves* 4,069

\*as provided for in para 3(v)

**4 Any other business** There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.00 pm