

KINGSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council

Monday 20th December 2021 at 19:30

Present:

- Cllr Davina Martin (Chair)
- Cllr Gina Pearson
- Cllr Paul Chatley
- Cllr Val McWilliams
- Cllr Steve Reeves
- Cllr Laura Spencer
- Cllr Vince Stribbling
- 3 Members of the Public
- Mr Christopher Howard (Clerk)

1. Apologies and approval of absences:

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all for attending a meeting so close to Christmas. She asked for apologies for absence. Apologies were received from 2 members of the public who could not be in attendance.

2. Declarations of interest:

None received.

3. Public Forum:

A member of the public commented on the gradual increase in precept over the past few years and asked why the Parish Council had at the previous ordinary meeting decided to keep the precept the same, and if there was a formula for deciding the precept.

Cllr Martin stated that there was no formula unfortunately and that the decision on how much to ask for is up to the Parish Council. This amount is based on the predicted spending for the coming year using the budget that was set previously.

Another member of the public thanked the Parish Council for the speedy nature of the calling the extraordinary meeting following their email expressing concerns at the decision reached at the previous ordinary meeting.

A further member of the public commented on not being happy at the previous decision for the precept to remain at £11,000.

4. Precept for 2022-23:

Councillors had a lengthy discussion regarding the currently healthy financial bank balance of the Parish Council. The underspend has mainly accumulated over the past few years from the Parish Council not having a Parish Clerk and the current Covid-19 pandemic, which allowed the Parish Council to make unexpected savings. With an expected budget of £10,000 for the following year, points were raised for keeping the precept the same as the current financial year (£11,000), as well as reducing it to account for the underspend that had occurred in recent years.

Cllr Chatley proposed that the precept be reduced by £4,000 to £7,000 for financial year 2022-2023, with the estimated £3,000 shortfall based on the predicted budget of £10,000 met from the excess reserves. Cllr Chatley further proposed that the Parish Council consider keeping the precept at a level that is £3,000 below the estimated budget for the next five financial years, should there continue to be an underspend on the budget, in order to reduce reserves. This was seconded by Cllr Stribbling, with 6 councillors voted for and 1 against.

*Clerk to inform CCC of the request for a precept of £7,000 for the financial year 2022-23.
Clerk to add agenda items regarding the size of Reserves and Village Projects*

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signed (Chairman)

Date

Please note these Minutes remain as draft Minutes until they are approved by the Parish Council at their next Parish Council meeting.

Date of next meeting: Monday 10th January 2022 in The Barn, Kingston at 7.30pm

Future meeting dates: 07/02/22, 07/03/22, 04/04/22, 09/05/22, 06/06/22, 04/07/22, 05/09/22, 03/10/22,
07/11/22, 05/12/22

DRAFT