

Hurworth Parish Council
Finance Working Party Meeting
held at Hurworth Grange
at 7:00 pm on 15th November 2016

Those present:- Margaret Williams (Chair), Jean Peacock, Peter Foster, Wilma Campbell, Elaine Hedley, Carol Paylor, David Wood, Simon Coultas. Graham Wylie.

Also present: Peter Allan, Parish Clerk

- **Apologies for absence:** - Paul Walters, Ricard Lawler, Janine Foster.
- **Declarations of Interest:**

Graham Wylie	Allotments
Wilma Campbell	HCA and EPICH
Jean Peacock	HCA

- **Chairman's Address**

The Chairman welcomed the council members and advised them that the main purpose of this meeting is to put forward projects for the coming three years, and to agree the amount of the Precept for 2017-18. This being a Working Party meeting, no decisions can be taken, but the recommendations will go forward to the next PC Meeting for consideration and ratification.

- **Minutes of the Finance Meeting dated 19th May 2016**

The Minutes were formally adopted, proposed by Jean Peacock and Seconded by Elaine Hedley.

- **Minutes of the Finance Meeting dated 24th November 2016**

The Minutes were formally adopted, proposed by Wilma Campbell and Seconded by Elaine Hedley.

- **Review of the Action Plan 2016-17**

The Clerk presented the Action Plan for 2016-17, which was reviewed by the meeting. A new Action Plan will be required for the coming year, and it was agreed that this will be completed by January 2017.

- **Budgets for the years 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19**

The Clerk presented the updated Budget forecasts up to 31st March 2019.

These will be further updated when the council decided on the Projects which are to be scheduled for the years 2017 and 2018.

- **Projects for the years 2016-2020**

The Clerk presented the latest version of the Project Schedule up to 2020.

The meeting made comments and recommendations on each item, and the Schedule was duly updated.

New Projects were put to the meeting, and decisions made on the suitability of each project and the amount of funding to be allocated.

A new Schedule of Projects is included as an attachment to the Minutes.

All 'decisions' made at this meeting must be placed before the Council at their December 2016 Meeting for approval and acceptance. See Schedule attached.

- **Financial Projection to 31st March 2019**

The Clerk presented the Forecast, based on data, prior to the revised Schedule of Projects, and based on the current precept.

However, DBC has withdrawn the Discretionary Grant of £2560, and it is recommended that this is incorporated into the forward Precept figures.

It was agreed that the Clerk should update the Budgets with the revised Projects and determine the amount would like to recommend for the 2017 Precept.

The Clerk has prepared the revised data, and this is incorporated into these Minutes, as an Attachment.

Based on the revised figures the recommended Precept for 2017 will be £57,000. All potential grants have been removed, as agreed by the meeting. **Please see Attachment.**

- **Precept calculation for 2017**

Assumptions

- The Litter Picker refund will be available in 2017, but is doubtful thereafter
- There could be a Parish election before the end of the current duration, cost circa £4,500
- It is assumed in this projection that DBC will continue to provide their current services, and these will not be re-assigned to the parishes.
- EPICH will continue to function until the 31st March 2019

Post Meeting Calculation

Ring fenced Funds

Hurworth and Neasham Burial Fund	since 2008	2,687
----------------------------------	------------	-------

Flood Disaster Reserve from 2015 to 2019		10,000
--	--	--------

Projected Status as at 31st March 2019

Funds in hand		35,539
---------------	--	--------

Less ring fenced

Burial fund	2,687	
Flood Contingency Fund	10,000	12,687

HPC available funds as at 31/3/17		22,852
-----------------------------------	--	--------

Statuary recommended Minimum cash in hand

is 6 months of essential operating expenses	37,318	18,659
---	--------	--------

Projected surplus as at 31st March 2019		4,193
---	--	-------

After discussion the meeting agreed that the 2017 Precept should incorporate all the Projects discussed and approved, and should be based on the revised budgets to March 2019. The figure to be placed before the council will be £57,000.

Cllr Simon Coultas expressed his concern at this large increase, and felt that the council's reserves could be lowered to allow a lower Precept increase. His comments were understood and acknowledged. The Meeting then voted and the motion to increase the Precept to £57,000 was accepted by eight votes to one.

This will now be put to the Council on 1st December.

The Chair thanked the attendees, and closed the meeting at 10:20pm.