

Guilden Sutton Parish Council

Minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Council held on Monday 26 January 2015 in Guilden Sutton Village Hall at 7.30pm.

1 Procedural matters.

(a) Declarations of interest. Members were reminded they should declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or any Other Disclosable Interest which they may have in any matter or item to be considered at the meeting. Any declaration must be made before the matter, or item, is considered or as soon as the Member becomes aware a declaration is required.

Declarations are a personal matter for each Member to decide with the decision to declare, or not, being the responsibility of the Member based on the particular circumstances. Consideration should be given to any pecuniary interest, outside bodies interest or family, friends and close associates.

(b) Apologies. Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs I Brown and D Hughes.

(c) Dispensations. Members noted the decision beneath reached at the Council meeting in January 2014.

Dispensations. In order to deal adequately with the Budget and Precept the Clerk advised the Council needed to resolve that all Members who may have a disclosable pecuniary interest in the setting of the precept by virtue of ownership of a property within the parish should be granted a dispensation to enable the business to be dealt with. It was proposed by Cllr Paterson, seconded by Cllr Ringstead and agreed that dispensations should be granted to 31 April 2015. Members duly completed the requisite forms.

(d) Dates of future meetings: Mondays 2 February, 2 March, 13 April, 11 May, 1 June, 13 July, 7 September, 5 October, 2 November and 7 December 2015.

2 Community engagement.

(a) Public speaking time. (i) Members of the public (total 15 minutes). There were no speakers. (b) Visiting Members/Officers. There were no speakers.

3 Budget 2015/16.

The Chairman reported updated papers prepared by the Clerk had been considered by an Audit Group comprising himself and the Vice Chairman, Cllr Paterson. These retained the principle of a 0% increase in Council Tax set at the January meeting while adjusting the overall budget to include expected variations which would be required to the 2014/15 budget, which was included intact and to reflect Members' wishes to carry out public realm improvements in the area of Pipers Ash to be transferred to Guilden Sutton from Great Boughton.

Particular attention had been paid to the proposed financing of the intended budget and to the expected unallocated balances remaining which would reduce risk. The proposed new grounds maintenance contract had been scrutinised with existing client councils providing favourable references.

The Audit Group recommended the adoption of the budget and precept as set out in the papers which had been circulated to all Members of the Council for comment. The key features were a budget of £24115 to be financed by precept income of £16614 (reflecting the additional properties transferred from Great Boughton but held at the existing £25.60 per Band D property level applicable within Guilden Sutton parish as requested by Members), council tax reduction grant of £556 and income from other sources including VAT refund, grants, New Homes Bonus and the use of £2220 from unallocated balances which were estimated at £24603 at 31 March 2015.

This proposal was moved by Cllr Davis, seconded by Cllr Moulton and agreed unanimously.

Members further considered the risk level associated with this budget and with all other aspects of the Council's business which would continue under the auspices of the Audit Group.

4 Any other matters of business considered by the Chairman to be urgent. There were no such items to be considered in Part 1.

Matters to be considered following the exclusion of the public and press.

5 Utility works by Scottish Power. This was only considered in Part 2 at this stage as Scottish Power had yet to launch their public engagement. The Clerk informed of a proposal to strengthen the wider network which would involve underground cabling passing initially through the parish from the substation on Belle Vue Lane. Representatives had requested to attend the Council meeting to be held on 2 February 2015 to detail the scheme and respond to questions. **Action: Noted.**

The meeting closed at 1944.

Next meeting: 2 February 2015.

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14/15 163