MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HOLYWELL-CUM-NEEDINGWORTH PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 22nd NOVEMBER 2022 AT 6.30PM AT MILLFIELDS PAVILION

PRESENT:
Cllr A Whyte (Chairman)
Cllr R Fountain
Cllr T Head
Cllr E McNeill
Cllr E MacPherson
Cllr S Mortlock
Cllr J Neish (to 7.22pm)
Cllr C Pearce
Cllr D Peart
Cllr M Williamson

IN ATTENDANCE:
Miss J Bowd Parish Clerk

There were no members of the public present.

93. Apologies.

To receive and accept Apologies for Absence.

Cllr D Jackson – personal
Cllr C Pearce- Personal
Cllr S Mitcham - Personal

94. Declarations of Interest.

To receive Declarations of Disclosable and/or Non-Disclosable Pecuniary Interests as set out in Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011 and the nature of those interests relating to any Agenda item.

The Clerk approved dispensation to all members of the Council to permit discussion of the budget and precept setting for 2023/24

Cllr E McNeill – nonpecuniary item 97 (iii) Grandson is a member of Needingworth Colts.

95. Minutes.

To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 1st November 2022.

Cllr Head advised that item 88.8 Zero should be spelt Xero.

Cllr Peart stated that in item 88.9 he had asked a direct question "Do we have an agreement, or permission, with Scribe to allow another parish council to run their accounts using our software licence?" Alison replied "Yes". He asked that this be included.

A discussion took place over the fact that minutes are not recorded verbatim and whether or not adding the question/reply altered the meaning of the minutes.

Resolved: That Cllr Peart's amendment be accepted 6 in favour, 1 against, 3 abstentions.

Resolved: That with the above amendments the minutes of the Meeting held on 1st November 2022 be signed by the Chairman as being a true and correct record. (Prop Cllr Mortlock, 2nd Cllr MacPherson) 8 in favour. 2 abstentions

96. Receipts and Payments Account

To note the half yearly statement of receipts and payments as at 30th September 2022.

Cllr Peart noted that that many cost codes where headed "other" and that members were not able to see what has been paid for. E.g., £1031 under miscellaneous.

Clerk spoke advising that monthly budgets are provided, and spending advised. This was also an opportunity for queries to be raised at the time.

Clerk clarified that the spending of £1031 related to unexpected costs when travellers occupied the car park at Millfields £900 for security company and £131 for a skip to assist with the clear up.

Noted

97. Grants and Donations

To consider the following requests: -

(i) MAGPAS

Resolved: That a donation of £50 be made to MAGPAS (Prop Cllr Martin, 2nd Cllr McNeill) All in favour.

(ii) Citizens Advice bureau

Resolved: That a donation of £50 be made to SERV Suffolk & Cambridgeshire (Prop Cllr MacPherson, 2nd Cllr Mortlock) All in favour

(iii) Needingworth Colts.

It was noted that this application was retrospective in breach of the Grant giving policy. Also, that there was not evidence of fund raising by the club.

Resolved: That the grant application from Needingworth Colts be declined (Prop Cllr Fountain, 2nd Cllr Mortlock) 6 in favour, 2 Against, 1abstention.

98 .Budgets

Taken out of order after item 96.
Cllr Neish thanked members for this change of order.

98.1 To note the bank reconciliation as of 28th September 2022 as approved 4th October 2022
Noted

98.2 To review the budgets for 2022/23.
Noted

98.3 To set the budgets for 2023/24

A lengthy debate took place regarding the proposed budget as presented showing a £2.92pa increase on a Band D property subject to tax base being confirmed at 1064.

Cllr Peart spoke to say that Council should not hold such high reserves and that this was an opportunity to give back to residents. He felt that Millfields budget needs cutting back and that Council needs to look again reducing paper usage.

Cllr Neish spoke in support of the budget as presented stating that it was likely that the other elements of Council tax will increase significantly to keep pace with inflation and ongoing price increases.

Cllr Fountain agreed that reserves in his opinion are high and that he would prefer to see a flat/no increase precept.

Cllr Williamson agreed with Cllr Neish that prices continue to rise and that residents expect a certain level of services.

Cllr McNeill spoke regarding the benefits to health of the sports facilities to the community.

Cllr Martin asked if Millfields could be rented to other user groups to raise revenue.

Cllr Fountain considered that this would be detrimental to the village hall income.

Clerk spoke to say Council had reduced electricity consumption with streetlights being changed to LED lights.

Resolved: That the budget be as set as presented at £131836.00 (Prop Cllr Neish 2nd Cllr Williamson) 2 in favour, 7 against, 1 abstention.

Resolved: That the budgets be reduced by £2836 to £129,000.00 to keep Band D at same level as 2021/22 (Prop Cllr Fountain 2nd Cllr Mortlock) 6 in favour, 3 against 1 abstention.

Cllr Neish leaves the meeting 7.22pm

99. Precept

To agree the Precept figure for 2023/24

Resolved: That the precept be set so that Band D is the same as financial year 2021/22 (£121.00). If tax base is correct at 1064 this will give a precept of £129,000.00.

Matter to be ratified at full Council on 6th December 2022. (Prop Cllr Macpherson 2nd Cllr Martin) 8 in favour 1 against.

100. Items to report

- Cllr McNeill report that she had met Mr. M Baker from wildlife trust regarding a report on the biodiversity of Falklands. A further visit will be required Spring/Summer 2023 before a report can be written.
- Cllr head asked if all proposals can be heard before voting.
- Cllr Peart also agreed with Cllr Head.
  Cllr Peart report concerns with parking along Mill Way by Needingworth Colts over the past 2 weeks.
  Cllr Peart also reported a need to monitor the new development Back Lane Holywell as vegetation is being removed.
  Cllr Fountain asked that the maintenance of the car park Overcote Lane be put onto the December agenda.
- Cllr MacPherson thanked the Clerk/RFO for her work on the budget

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.40pm

Chairman

Date