THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF

THE SHOTTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY 10th JANUARY 2022.

Present: Councillor I Cochrane (Chair)
AW Bright, G Bright, JWA Bright, M Cooper,
L Cox, R Hardy, LA Hill, A Kelly, RB Lacey, H Mountain,
MA Mountain, M Parker, KT Wood

Apologies: None

Members of the Public

TIME SET ASIDE FOR QUESTIONS/ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC
There were no issues raised by the Public.

1514.**TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
No apologies for absence were received.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted

1515. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**
No declarations of interest were received.

RESOLVED that, the information given be noted.

1516**. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

a) Schedule of Payments
RESOLVED that the cheques and payments read out and detailed by the Clerk for December 2021, be approved for payment.

b) Bank Mandate and E Banking Update
The Clerk confirmed details from Co-operative Bank to enable access to electronic banking was still awaited.
RESOLVED that the information given be noted and developments be awaited.

c) 2022/23 Parish Council Budget Workshop, Precept Requirement & LCTRS
At the October meeting of the Council, the Clerk updated members on the timetable for determining budgets and the Councils Precept and requested Members to consider the Councils budget with a view to determining priority areas and budgets for 2022/23. This Special meeting had been convened to progress these areas in order to achieve the County Councils notice of precept requirement deadline of 21st January 2022.

A copy of the Council's current 2021/22 budget had been previously circulated to all members together with details of the recent County Council update on the Council Tax base and LCTRS. The Clerk re-iterated previous requests that Members needed to clarify and determine their priorities and budgets for the Council. In addition, the Clerk circulated to each Member and displayed via a projector to the Workshop a table of projected changes to the current budget and incorporating an updated outturn for the current financial year.

The following Key Issues and Identified Projects had been identified to facilitate the workshop:

Current Economic Climate

- Inflation +5% >
- Energy Costs 33-50% increases
- Outstanding National Pay Claim 2021
- Employers N. Ins contributions increase

Council Tax Base

- Current 2021/22 £1148.3 to 2022/23 £1153.0 (>£5.3) (means all THINGS staying the same INCREASE YIELD OF £682/YEAR)
- LCTRS Grant reduced from £709 TO £30
- Overall change of £3.75

Existing Budget Challenges

- Storm Arwen
- Kitchen replacement Bungalow
- Savings from Meeting Rooms + rental income
- Energy Costs
- Election Costs
- Savings on budgeted wages offset increases

Identified Projects

Project	2021/22 Current	2022/23 Updated	Note
Public Notice Board	£1400	£1,000	Ordered awaiting January delivery
Community Garden Project	0	£500	Approved
Community Drawing Project	0	£200	Approved
MUGA Victoria Showground	£60,000	£30,000	Defer whether to proceed pending outcome of community consultation
Play Equipment Comm Park	£60,000	£140,000	Awaiting detailed costings and tenders. Utilise S106 funding
Youth Council	0	£500	Lack of interest contingency subject to community consultation
Queens Platinum Jubilee	0	£3000	Jubilee Tree and Commemorative enclosure
Hatch - Changing Rooms	0	£5000	Consider separate ticket / refreshments building with contribution from Footballers
Car Park Comm Park	£250,000 (estimate but not fully budgeted)	£5,000	Undertake feasibility study & costing
Castle Green Estate	?	Zero	No comments made
Community Consultation	0	£2,000	

Roads & Footpath Repairs Comm Park	0	£5000	Initial Estimate subject to specification
Lighting Repairs Comm Park	0	£10,000	2021 Quotation to progress asap
New Council Website	0	£2,000	
Football Improvements	?	Zero	Maintenance only subject to community consultation
Shotton Pit Closure Anniversary	0	£2000	
Community Contingency Planning	0	£2000	

Detailed discussion on each project and area of significant budget spend was undertaken by Members and all questions answered by the Clerk. In summary, with no changes to budgets, there was approx. £55,000 available to allocate to the above priorities.

RESOLVED that:

i. the reviewed priorities identified above be the Councils agreed priorities for 2022/23, it being noted that:
   - the remaining balances would be allocated towards the car park refurbishment.
   - the budget included for the full use of the available Shotton allocated Section 106 monies (£140,212).
   - the proposed community consultation would inform and support the development of a 3–5-year Medium Term Financial Plan.

ii. based on the above and the projected budget for 2022/23, the Councils budget requirement for 2022/23 would be **£140,029.00**. Taking account of the £30.00 LCTRS would mean a Precept staying the same of **£139,000.00**

iii. based on the above, the Band D Council Tax would be £121.33 from £121.92 (decrease of 0.59%)

iv. the Clerk be authorised to notify Durham County Council of the above requirements

1517. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED that the next meeting of the Parish Council, would be held at Shotton Community Hub on Monday 31st January 2022 at 6.00pm

CERTIFIED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIRMAN .....

Date: 31 January 2022