

MINUTES of the extra-ordinary meeting of Broad Town Parish Council held on Monday 16th January 2017, in Broad Town Village Hall commencing at 6.30pm.

PRESENT : Cllrs Jason Bayliff, Ray Bourton, Stuart Hinson (Chairman).
Mrs Deborah Bourne (Clerk)

Also Present : Seven members of the public.

015/17 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Simon Billis, Matt Nailon, Donna Ponting and Veronica Stubbings.

016/17 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made for matters on this agenda.

017/17 Annual Estimates of Income and Expenditure

Councillors are advised that the effect of section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 is that if, when considering budgetary items, any Councillor is in arrears for more than two months with his/her Council Tax, he/she must declare that section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applies and neither speak nor vote on the matter before Council. Failure to observe this renders the Councillor liable for prosecution by the Director of Public Prosecutions.

It is the responsibility of the Parish Council to levy a precept on Wiltshire Council to cover its costs for the 2017/18 financial year. Wiltshire Council is the charging authority and will collect this tax on behalf of the Parish Council. Figures must reach Wiltshire Council Finance Department before 20th January 2017.

Discussion held about previous budgets and precept requests.

Historically the precept for Broad Town has always been very low compared to other parishes within Wiltshire. Previously the clerk, the Councils only employee, had worked far more hours than he was paid; he retired early in 2016 and it has been necessary to advertise the vacancy with an increase to the salary. Due to cutbacks in Wiltshire Councils funding more service provision is being passed on to Parish Councils, like contributions to minor highways work, grass cutting etc. This will add an extra burden on the Parish element of the Council Tax.

Broad Town Parish Council has not increased its precept for several years, and there is a fear the Council could get into financial difficulty if the rate is not increased this year. There is the added concern that nationally, the Government has stated it may put a cap on how much a Parish Council can raise its precept in the same way as Unitary Authorities.

It was also noted that:

- some of the s106 monies previously received may need to be returned due to VAT costs.
- Two Freedom Of Information (FOI) requests since July is putting an added burden on contracted hours

- Broad Town Parish Council needs to make steps to become compliant with the Transparency Act,

RESOLVED to adopt budget option five from the RFOs recommendations. An amount of £7,649.00 will be required for this budget to be actioned. This increase will result in an approximate doubling of residents Council Tax contribution for the Parish. (From £14.28 for a Band D property in 2016/17 to £28.56 in 2017/18).

Further RESOLVED to demand Wiltshire Council, as the charging authority, precept an amount of £7,649.00 (Seven thousand, six hundred and forty nine pounds) against the residents of Broad Town Parish.

018/17 **Conclusions and Close of Meeting**

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending this extra-ordinary meeting, saying he was encouraged that the setting of this budget is the first step to making Broad Town Parish Council more compliant, open and transparent; which has been repeatedly requested by some residents.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 13th February 2017 at 6.30pm in Broad Town Village Hall. All residents welcome to attend.

The meeting closed at 6.55pm

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Cllr Stuart Hinson
Chairman