



## STANTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: - Mrs Joy Hart, Sucrierie, Old Bury Road, Stanton, Suffolk IP312BX  
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Chair – Francis Hart

Vice Chair – Phil Smith

### Minutes of the Budget Meeting of Stanton Parish Council held on 27 October 2022 at 7pm at Stanton Village Hall.

#### AGENDA

No members of the Public were present.

- 1. Present:** Cllrs F J Hart, P Smith, J Frizzell, C Harvey-Evers, B McDonald.
- 2. Apologies for absence accepted:** Cllr B Brown, B Smithson.  
**Reason for absence not given:** Cllr M Scowcroft, A Kemp, L Frost, K Davies
- 3. The minutes of the previous** meeting on 6 October 2022 were approved and signed.
- 4. Declarations of interest:** There were no declarations of interest.
- 5. Budget – to prepare the Precept Application for the Financial Year 2022-23**
  - a. The Clerk issued a budget analysis for the year 2022/23 showing expenditure to date and projected expenditure for the remainder of the year. It is anticipated that the level of reserve at the end of this financial year will be in the region of £72,650.

The following items had been submitted for consideration and were discussed and agreed as follows

- S137 Village activities funding pot increased to £1100 to encourage new clubs, especially for young people.
- S137 Donations to remain at £400.
- Special Projects Budget 2023-24
  - Christmas Tree Event - up to £500
  - To support Coronation celebrations May 2023 – up to £500
  - Set up and maintenance costs of Village Green (Old School) – up to £3,000
  - Two solar powered Speed Indicator Devices for A143 – up to £6,000
  - Set up office costs for new Clerk – up to £1,500

A total of £14,000 was set aside in Special Projects for the matters agreed. The remaining budget for the year 2023-24 was considered and a draft budget was set.

#### Changes to last year's budget

- Staff Salaries increased in line with expected rise in minimum wage from April 2023 and increased hours for Clerk ratified as 55 per month.
- Admin and stationery budget increased by £200 to allow for increased accounting system costs
- Phone and internet budget increased by £100 in line with inflation and renegotiation of fixed contract.
- Audit fees increased by £50 due to change of internal auditor.
- Amendments to grass cutting contract due to fixed term contract.
- 5% Increase on subscriptions
- £200 Increase on anticipated electricity costs - contract due for renewal May 2023

The following was discussed and resolved -

- £8000 contribution from reserves towards Precept to acknowledge effect of rising cost of living and keep the Precept increase to a minimum.
- £35,000 to be ring fenced in reserves for an upgrade project of the Recreation ground facilities including the skate park, tennis court and MUGA

Unallocated Reserves will be in the region of £28,650

The draft final Budget is therefore an Application for a Precept of £71,010 (Last year (£73,710) which is a reduction of 3.7% on the previous year.

The tax base has not yet been received from West Suffolk and therefore the impact on Council Tax cannot yet be calculated.

The Budget figures and Precept request will be submitted for approval at the Parish Council Meeting to be held on 8 December 2022.

#### **b. S137 Donations (Budget £400)**

One donation request letter had been received. After discussion the following donations were proposed and agreed –

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|--|------|
| • Royal British Legion (Poppy Wreath provider) | £100 |
| • Newstalk                                     | £50  |
| • East Anglian Air Ambulance (EAAA)            | £150 |
| • Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)                 | £100 |

#### **c. Grant Applications – S137 Village (Budget £1000)**

No Grant applications have been received.

One email had been received from Cllr Frost (not present) to consider a donation to foodbanks in the area. The Clerk has made enquiries with both Walsham and All Saints Church and after discussion the following were proposed and resolved.

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| • All Saints Church food bank Christmas meal contribution    | £150 |
| • Walsham le Willows Community hub foodbank (covers Stanton) | £500 |

There being no further business the meeting finished at 8.35pm