

MEPPERSHALL PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES OF AN EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, MEPPERSHALL ON MONDAY 16TH JANUARY 2023

PRESENT: **Councillors:** Thompson (Chair), Morgan, Parsons, Seaman and Wright
 The Clerk: A Marabese.
 Others: None.

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 10:00am.

857. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- a. Councillors Addy, Chapman, Crossley, Merryweather and Standbridge provided apologies for absence that were accepted by Council.

858. CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. The Chairman read the Parish Council notice and announcement in relation to meetings in connection to openness and transparency.
- b. To resolve to extend the meeting finish time beyond 2 hours.
Councillors agreed that this would not be required.
- c. Other information
None

859. MEMBERS INTERESTS

- a. To receive declarations of interest from Councillors on items on the agenda and requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests.
None received or declared.

860. PUBLIC SESSION

At this point, as there were no Ward Councillors, village organisations or members of the public present Councillors moved on to the next agenda item.

861. FINANCE

a. 2023-2024 Budget.

- i. To review and approve 2023-2024 budget.

The Clerk and Councillors reviewed:

- The current financial year actual and forecasted income and expenditure report prepared by the Clerk in order to confirm predicted end of year general reserves (carry forward).
- Earmarked reserves both current year and the recommended start position for 2023-2024.
- The proposed 2023-2024 budget as prepared by the Clerk. Amendments were made to the budget in the meeting as the line by line review took place.

Proposed Cllr Thompson/Seconded Cllr Morgan. Resolved to approve the 2023-2024 budget as amended. Carried.

b. 2023-2024 Precept.

- i. To review and approve 2023-2024 precept request.

The Clerk and Councillors reviewed a number of 2023-2024 precept options and based upon the approved budget discussed the merits of each option and the impact on both general and earmarked reserves. Councillors recognised that the predicted 2023-2024 general reserves would be lower than in previous years but it was hoped that

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some in year savings could be found and that the Earmarked contingency would not be required.

Proposed Cllr Thompson/Seconded Cllr Parsons. Resolved to approve and to set a precept of £65,461 which equates to Band D Council Tax charge of £64.43 (increase of 3.00% or £1.88 on 2022-2023). The Clerk was also asked to write an article for the Messenger. Carried.

862. CLOSE OF THE MEETING

The Chairman closed the meeting at 12:00 noon and reminded everyone that the next meeting would be the 13th February 2023, starting at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Where no signature exists in this electronic version, a hard copy version is available for inspection from the Clerk.

Glossary

- CBC = Central Bedfordshire Council
- DMC = Development Management Committee
- GPC = Gravenhurst Parish Council
- MPC = Meppershall Parish Council
- MVH = Meppershall Village Hall & MVHT = Meppershall Village Hall Trustees
- NP = Neighbourhood Plan
- ORM = Old Read Meadow Nature Reserve
- VAS = Vehicle Activated Sign