

Minutes of the Parish Council Precept Meeting of the Dersingham Parish Council held on 21 January 2019 at 7.00pm, at Dersingham Village Centre, Manor Road, Dersingham

Present: Cllrs S Payne (Chair), C Hipkin (Vice Chair) B Hopkins, C Shepherd, M Shepherd, D Murrell, M Noble, V Brundle, J Houston, B Anderson, G Billard, K Hathaway, D Wright, and R Frost.

Also, Present: Sarah Bristow (Parish Clerk) Geraldine Scanlon (Admin Assistant). 3 Members of Public

13137 To Receive and Consider Apologies for Absence
It was resolved to accept apologies from. Cllrs Bubb and Davey.

13138 To Receive Declarations of Interest and request for Dispensations by Councillors in any of the Agenda Items listed.
None Received.

It was resolved to open the meeting to allow the public to speak.

13139 Dersingham Centre Signs.
Councillor Payne stated the Clerk had obtained three quotes for a permanent Village Centre sign. Councillors discussed the current temporary sign that had been erected by Dersingham Village Centre Association, the quality and costings of the proposed new sign. Councillor M Shepherd advised on his list of works outstanding for the Centre, the sign had been shown as low priority. Councillor Judd was concerned a new sign now would be a waste of funds. Councillor Payne advised that as part of the Lottery funding their logo had to be displayed at the Centre. **It was resolved to defer the purchase of a new Village Sign.**

13140 To review and set Budgets for 2019/20.
Councillor M Shepherd had worked alongside the Clerk to review the Parish Councils current financial position and to work towards figures to set the Precept for 2019/20. He read the report shown to Councillors regarding the budget setting:

Dersingham Village Centre – Budget setting 2019/2020

Background

The situation around the village centre project and the leases is still very unclear and fluid. Advice taken on VAT around the lease has thrown up some unexpected issues which are not yet fully resolved. The key points we need to consider in setting the precept are as follows;

1. We need to make provision for a projected shortfall within the original project of around £14,000.
2. We now have a priority list of additional outstanding items of work agreed by representatives of DVCA and DPC. The DPC elements on this list are

currently unbudgeted and not covered by provision in the DC reserve. The estimated cost of the high and medium priority work plus the projected shortfall is around £22,400. An additional £10,400 should be allowed to include lower priority work including the overflow car park. The whole list currently equates to around £37,000. This total could rise when professional advice and quotations are taken for some of the lower priority work. We need to make budgetary provision in 2019/20 for at least the high priority work.

3. There are still issues being resolved around the form of lease with DVCA, mainly due to VAT concerns. It is proving challenging to predict the financial liability that will fall on the Parish Council. There are currently two forms of lease on the table, mixed use and full repairing, each with different financial implications.
4. A public commitment was given to reduce the precept this year, and a figure of £154,000 was used in our submission to central government for the emergency public works loan. Last year the precept was set at £179,000.
5. We have a projected budget saving for 2018/19 of around £14,000 which is available to cover some of these costs. The remaining provision will need to come from the general reserve and the 2019/20 precept.

Recommendation

It is suggested that we base our budget for 2019/20 on the following assumptions;

1. Provision be made for the completed, very high, high and medium priority outstanding work and the overflow car park. Other work will have to wait until funds are identified.
2. We use the full repairing lease scenario for budget planning.
3. Since we are likely to be paying for our use of the building and/or maintenance costs, no further grant will be available to DVCA.
4. Additional funds required are therefore approx. £42,800 (£32,800 and £10,000)

This should be funded by;

1. Transfer £14,000 to the DC reserve from 2018/19 budget savings
2. Transfer £25,000 from the general fund in the current financial year
3. A precept contribution for 2019/20 of £3,800 would be required to cover the balance, resulting in a precept of £151,000.

Should councillors wish to allow for the inclusion of all other items on the priority list, a precept of £155,000 would be required.

Mike Shepherd 20/1/2019

Committees had previously met and discussed their income and expenditure for 2019/20. The Clerk had updated the Financial Budget Comparison report, and this was circulated and reviewed by Councillors. Discussion was had regarding the priorities for the forthcoming year including bus stops, streetlighting and car park improvements. Councillor M Shepherd advised the forecast budget had included worst

case scenario costs and it was envisaged that there would be some underspend which could be used to offset the following years budgets.

13141 To agree and set the Precept for 2019/20.

Councillor Anderson proposed the precept be set at £151,000.00. This was approved unanimously.

13142 Date & Place of next meetings.

Full Council Meeting on Monday 28 January 2019 starting 7.00pm at The Garden Room Dersingham Village Centre, Manor Road, Dersingham.

The meeting was opened to the Public at 7.40pm

A Parishioner asked how much of the £151,000.00 precept allocation was going towards the Village Centre. Councillor M Shepherd advised £38,800.00 had been allocated for the centre.

A further question was asked what the anticipated income for the Parish Council from the Centre would be. Councillor Payne advised the Parish Council would receive no income and would be solely run by DVCA.

Councillor Wright asked if the Parish Council were now paying to rent the office space, as it had been agreed the money saved on rent from the previous accommodation would cover the repayment of the loan borrowed. Councillor M Shepherd this was yet to be determined and was still under review.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm