

Hirst Courtney & West Bank Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance Sub-Committee Meeting
held at Courtney Lodge
Wednesday 8th December 2021 at 7.00pm

Present:

Councillors: Cllr R. Wagstaff (Chairman) Cllr I. Forbes (Vice-chairman), Cllr J. Barratt.

In Attendance: Mrs S. Rockliff, **Proper Officer/ Clerk**

Members of the Public: none

Cllr Wagstaff, Chairman of the Sub-Committee, opened the meeting at 7.05pm.

1. Apologies for Absence.

There were no apologies for absence

2. Declarations of Interest.

There were no disclosures of personal or prejudicial interests from councillors.

3. Street Lamp Energy Costs.

Councillors considered the possible cost of energy for the parish street lamps from the 1st April 2022 when the current three year contract for energy ends.

The clerk informed the sub-committee that Npower had provided a quote for the unmetered supply. The quote was for guidance purposes only as Npower had advised waiting until February/March and obtain a quote then.

£0.25 per kwh for an Estimated Annual Consumption (EAC) of **11,754.1kwh**.

This would equal **£2,938.25** per year (net).

Npower had also said that there would be two Standing Charges, one for the street lamps and one for the dawn to dusk sensors. The Standing Charges would each be **£1.50** per day.

This would equal **£1,095.00** per year (net)

The total cost of the parish street lamps would be **£4,033.25 per year * (net)**.

*1st April to 31st March.

This quote did not include Climate Charge Levies.

The Parish Council's total cost of energy for the year 2020/2021 was **£2,101.59 (net)**.

Councillors agreed that the impact of the possible **92%** increase in costs would be severe.

Councillors agreed that the Unmetered Supplies Certificate (UMS) required for the MPAN needed to be updated as the replacement LED lights would reduce the EAC.

Councillors agreed that a quotation for the replacement of the remaining non-LED lamps should be obtained from the maintenance contractor as this could help to reduce the impact of the price increase.

Resolved, that:

- i) The clerk would obtain a quotation for the replacement of the remaining non-LED lamps from the maintenance contractor;**
- ii) The clerk would contact the maintenance provider regarding the updating of the UMS for the MPAN.**

4. Playground Grass Cutting Costs.

Councillors considered whether to seek quotations for the cutting of the grass at the playground and around the village signs, and the associated litter pick to ensure best value. Councillors noted that the current provider has always provided a good level of service.

Resolved, that:

The clerk would seek quotations from providers, including the current provider.

5. Budget Plan for 2022/2023.

Councillors considered the Draft Budget Plan prepared by the clerk. Councillors noted that the Budget Plan is for the operating expenditure of the Council. This expenditure should be funded by the Parish Council Precept. General Reserves can be used to offset budget requirements if necessary but should be replenished the following year. The cost of street lamp energy and maintenance is included in the Budget Plan as they are running costs. The cost of replacing street lamps with an LED lamp would be a Capital cost and could be part of Earmarked Reserves.

Councillors noted that the Total Expenditure had increased from £9,482 to was £12,180 - this was primarily due to the increase in energy costs.

Resolved, that:

The Draft Budget Plan be presented to the Council for consideration.

6. Funding Requirements for 2022/2023

Councillors considered the Council's Funding Requirement and the impact of an increase using the Scenarios provided by Selby District Council and additional Scenarios provided by the clerk.

Selby District Council scenarios						
		option 1	option 2	option 3	option 4	
		Keep funding requirement the same	Increase funding requirement	Keep Band D charge the same	Apply 2% Band D charge	
	2021/22	2022/23	2022/23	2022/23	2021/22	2022/23
Funding Requirement	£9,121.71	£9,121.71	£9,121.71	£9,600.00	£9,385.76	£9,573.47
council tax precept	£9,121.71	£9,121.71	£9,121.71	£9,600.00	£9,385.76	£9,573.47
band d equivalents	109.51	112.68	112.68	112.68	112.68	112.68
band d charge per year	£83.30	£80.95	£80.95	£85.20	£83.30	£84.96
increase for band d house	£0.00	-£2.35	-£2.35	£1.90	£0.00	£1.66
increase for band d house	0.00%	-2.8%	-2.8%	2.3%	0.00%	2.00%
increase in funds		£0.00	£0.00	£478.29	£264.05	£451.76
Hirst Courtney & West Bank Parish Council scenarios						
		option 5	option 6	option 7	option 8	
		Keep funding requirement the same	Increase funding requirement	Keep Band D charge the same	Apply 5% Band D charge	
	2021/22	2022/23	2022/23	2022/23	2022/23	2022/23
Funding Requirement	£9,121.71	£9,121.71	£10,000.00	£9,385.76	£9,855.56	£9,855.56
council tax precept	£9,121.71	£9,121.71	£10,000.00	£9,385.76	£9,855.56	£9,855.56
band d equivalents	109.51	112.68	112.68	112.68	112.68	112.68
band d charge per year	£83.30	£80.95	£88.75	£83.30	£87.47	£87.47
increase for band d house	£0.00	-£2.35	£5.45	£0.00	£4.17	£4.17
increase for band d house	0.00%	-2.8%	6.5%	0.00%	5.0%	5.0%
increase in funds		£0.00	£878.29	£264.05	£733.85	£733.85
Band A charge 6/9 of Band D		£53.97	£59.16	£55.53	£58.31	£58.31
Band B charge 7/9		£62.96	£69.03	£64.79	£68.03	£68.03
Band C charge 8/9		£71.96	£78.89	£74.04	£77.75	£77.75
Band D charge 9/9		£80.95	£88.75	£83.30	£87.47	£87.47
Band E charge 11/9		£98.94	£108.47	£101.81	£106.90	£106.90
Band F charge 13/9		£116.93	£128.19	£120.32	£126.34	£126.34
Band G charge 15/9		£134.92	£147.91	£138.83	£145.78	£145.78
Band H charge 18/9		£161.90	£177.49	£166.60	£174.93	£174.93

Councillors agreed that none of the options modelled would cover the increase in the Draft Budget Plan. However, if the street lamps were replaced with LED lamps using capital this would reduce the cost of energy. This in turn would reduce the overall operating costs of the Council.

Councillors agreed that they were aware that the Council's precept was higher than other parishes in the locality. However this was almost entirely down to the operating cost of providing 35 street lamps from dusk to dawn for a relatively small number of households.

Councillors agreed that the Council's precept had not been increased for a number of years.

Resolved, that:

The recommendation to Council for the Funding Requirement (Precept) for 2022/2023 be Option 6: £10,000. This would be an annual charge of £88.75 for a Band D property, an increase of £5.45 or 6.5% per year.

The Chairman of the Meeting thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.30pm.