

SWANTON MORLEY PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY 20TH JANUARY 2020 AT 7.30PM

VIRTUAL MEETING VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Councillors Present: Mr R. Atterwill (Chairman), Mr D Turner, Mr J. Rodrigues, Mr J Venworth, Mr J Keen and Mr G. Curran

Also in attendance: Mrs K. Pickard (Clerk)

Matters Raised Under Time Allocated to the Public

None raised

The Meeting Went into Session

1. To Accept Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor O'Dowd, Councillor Westbury and Councillor Cawdron, accepted by the Council.

2. To Receive Declarations of Interest

Councillor Turner declared a personal interest in Allotments.

3. To Agree the 2021/2022 Parish Council Budget

The draft budget had been sent to Councillors for consideration prior to the meeting. The Clerk presented this on the screen for discussion.

Open spaces and church grounds were discussed, and it was agreed that the pressure washing for the playground, village green and outdoor gym equipment would need to be completed again this year. Provision was also discussed to replace the damaged noticeboard on Rectory Road.

Councillor Atterwill referred to the work on the pathways in the burial ground and confirmed that the sum would be deducted from the Covid19 grant money received for the Burial Ground in 2020.

Councillor Turner then asked if the church clock is the responsibility of the Council, Councillor Atterwill responded that the church is responsible for clock however under the Parish Council's Act 1957, the Parish Council have the power to maintain public clocks. The Parish Council usually makes a donation for the clock and the details are in the main budget.

Staff costs were discussed in line with the contracts and pay scales from NALC (E01-20). This includes a provision for when the Clerk completes the CiLCA qualification.

The training budget was revisited to include any training courses for the clerk/administrator. A provision was included in the event that a councillor resigns, and a new councillor may require introductory training.

The general breakdown for subscriptions, audit fees and donations were discussed. This includes a figure for additional cemetery software if the Council choose to do so.

Additional beneficiaries of donations were also discussed, the list now includes Norfolk Rivers Trust, Norfolk Wildlife Trust, Woodland Trust and any village organisations that may require some small assistance.

The communications budget for financial year 2021/2022 was agreed to cover four publications of the Mardler, the Annual parish meeting communication and an additional communication for the village (possibly post Covid) should it be required.

The income and expenditure for the remainder of 2020/2021 was then discussed.

This showed bank balances as at 20/01/2021.

Expenditure that was due to be paid out between 20/01/2021 and 31/03/2021 was detailed, as was the expected income figure.

The proposed budget sheet was then shown on the screen to reflect the discussions and agreements by councillors.

The figures confirmed included the staff costs, streetlight costs, insurances, and common lands.

There is still a figure of £473 from the Covid19 response grant that was received so this figure is detailed should it be required.

A nominal figure for a school travel plan has been included, this was following a discussion at the November meeting with a member of the public.

The figure for a future Swanton Morley festival has been reduced to zero at this time, due to the current pandemic nothing will be arranged for 2021.

The figure for the climate change group has been reduced due to the current Covid19 restrictions. The Parish Council are unable to make any plans for this at this time.

Councillor Atterwill then talked through the projected income figure.

This included the annual figure for Higher Level Stewardship, football pitch income and allotment fees.

The Nationwide savings account breakdown was shared on the screen. This showed a healthy balance thanks to a s.106 developer contribution and a covid19 grant received in addition to the Council's capital fund. This account also generates some monetary interest. Money from this account will be used to pay for some expenditure items shown in the budget.

Following this discussion, the budget figure that was arrived at was £92,867.09.

Councillor Curran proposed that the Swanton Morley Parish Council budget is set as £92,867.09 seconded by Councillor Rodrigues and carried.

4. To Agree the 2021/2022 Parish Council Precept

The tax base for the village has increased this year to 749.90.

The proposed precept for 2021/2022 was £78,365.20.

Councillor Curran proposed that the precept figure for 2021/2022 is agreed as £78,365.20, seconded by Councillor Rodrigues and carried. This results in a decrease in council tax on a Band D property of £ 4.94 per annum (41p per month).

The Meeting Was Suspended for Further Comment from the Public

No public were present

The meeting closed at 8.33pm

_____ (Chairman) _____ Date