

Evercreech Parish Council

Minutes of the Precept Meeting of Evercreech Parish Council held this day 21<sup>st</sup> January 2020 in the rear room of Evercreech Village Hall, Victoria Square, High Street, Evercreech at 7.00pm.

**PRESENT AT START OF MEETING: Murray Stewart (Chair), Roy Williams, Gail Wakeford, Sarah Breare, Harriet Fisher, Rob Reed, Barry O’leary, Lesley Parnham**

**Also present: Lynn Crisp (Clerk) & 0 members of the public.**

Item		Action
001	Apologies None received.	
002	Declarations of Interest and Dispensation None	
003	Open Session None	
004	<p><b>Precept</b></p> <p><b>a) To review 2020/21 Cemetery fees.</b> Mendip cemetery comparison figures received prior to meeting. Proposed 20/21 fees received prior to meeting. Resolve: to agree new fees, using 2.5% increase on last year.</p> <p>Rate of inflation was discussed.</p> <p>Proposal: To increase cemetery fees by 2.5% Proposed: MSt Seconded: GW All in favour.</p> <p><b>b) To agree precept %</b> Documents for consideration received prior to meeting. Resolve: Agree the precept figure.</p> <p>One Cllr stated that they did not receive agenda and papers. Subsequently confirmed Cllr was included on the distribution list.</p> <p>Robust discussions took place and the following was noted:</p> <p>We will refer to Band D properties, some properties do not attract council tax, some have single person discounts. It is a divisor. Evercreech has less houses than anticipated.</p> <p>3% increase = £37 957</p> <p>5% = 38,879 Using 5% will result in no financial penalty for having less houses than anticipated and will take the precept from £40.41 to £42.63 per annum, per property.</p> <p>At this point, Cllrs agreed to discuss the budget next. All in favour.</p> <p>Discussions took place regarding the % increase for 2020/21.</p>	

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	<p>Proposal: To agree an increase of 3% resulting in precept of £37,957. (£1.00 on band D properties)  GW proposed  LP seconded  5 for  3 against</p> <p><b>Therefore, the precept requested for year 2020/21 will be £37,957.</b></p> <p><b>c) To review the year end outturn and 2020/21 budget proposals agreed at Finance Committee on 03 01 2020 including new budget items.</b>  Draft Budget received prior to meeting.  Resolve: to agree budget as presented.</p> <p>Q: Are we going through headline items or taking the budget in its entirety?  A: We can go through headlines.</p> <p>Reminder to Cllrs that the Finance meeting had taken place, the budget was agreed at the Finance meeting and the decision made to present this budget to full council for consideration. The Finance Committee are therefore recommending a 5% increase on the precept. Costs will be higher this year e.g. now the up to date asset register is in place, the assets will need maintaining. Previously this has not been the case. In addition, staffing costs were higher this year than anticipated.</p> <p>Discussions took place:  Proposed to merge headline budget titles: Chairs mileage, Chairs expenses and Cllr expenses into a new heading Councillor expenses £500.00. Clerk to adjust budget and seek advice from Accounting company regarding the change of headings.  All agreed.</p> <p>Increase training budget to £925.00.</p> <p>Insurance – we now have a detailed asset register which will be sent to insurance company.</p> <p>Q: Why are we renting the car park?  A: Greencore used to pay the rent, for now Parish Council are covering the cost.</p> <p>Grit and salt – Parish Council were not advised in advance that County would be paying for this. By the time we were informed, this had been purchased. Clerk to diarise for May 2020 emailing Nigel Hewitt Cooper to ascertain the position for 20/21.</p> <p>Legal fees – do need to budget some funds:  Tozers offer a plan costing £750 per year. This buys a year of legal advice on any aspect, not simply staffing.</p> <p>Proposal to ask for documents outlining service from Tozers for the cost of £750.  All agreed.</p> <p>It was agreed not to include the £13000 contingency fund item in the budget summary calculations, as this will be shown as a reserve.</p> <p>Add the VAT return to budget.</p>	<p>LC</p> <p>LC</p> <p>LC</p> <p>LC</p> <p>LC</p> <p>LC</p> <p>LC</p>
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