

**Minutes of Shevington Parish Council  
Finance Committee Meeting  
Held Wednesday 8 January 2020  
7:00 pm Shevington Library**

**Present:** Councillor I Whiteley (Chairman), Councillors W McKnight, C Horridge, J Whiteley, M Grimes, M Crosby, J Higham and V Galligan.  
Three members of the public.

**Officer in Attendance:** Mrs K Pilkington (Clerk)

**1. Apologies**

Cllr J Ball

**2. Declaration of Interests**

None

**3. Minutes of the Last Finance Committee Meeting (4 December 2019)**

**Resolved:** The Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 4 December 2019 were approved as a true and correct record.

**4. Budget & Precept 2020**

The draft budget document circulated to the December meeting of the Committee had been updated in line with changes that had been agreed at that meeting.

*Cllr V Galligan joined the meeting.*

Levels of reserves as they would be on 1 April 2020 had been estimated and were risk assessed. Some cost centres were reviewed, but no changes were made.

Concerns were raised by members that by 2020 the reserves would be at such low levels that services provided by the Council would very soon become unsustainable if income were not increased and delivery of new projects would become impossible. The way forward was discussed at great length. The discussion included the possibility of increasing the precept and the impact that this would have on individual households. It was reported that there had been virtually no increases in precept to individual households over the past eight years, but running costs had been subject to inflation year on year.

Co-opted committee members present reported that other local public bodies were increasing their precepts for 2020 and that any decision to increase the Parish Council's precept should take the whole local picture into account. The Clerk advised that, if the Council were of the view that it was necessary to increase the precept, this should be staged by small amounts over several years.

**Resolved:** The Committee recommended a budgeted expenditure of £110,724 (including Expenditure Contingency) and a precept of £77,098 to the Council for approval.

A member requested a recorded vote.

FOR: Cllrs I Whiteley, W McKnight, C Horridge, J Whiteley, M Grimes, J Higham and V Galligan

AGAINST: Cllr M Crosby

## **5. PWLB Loan Information**

The previously circulated information was noted and discussed. It would be considered at a future date as a possible alternative should grant funding bids for the drainage project be unsuccessful.

## **6. January Newsletter**

The previously circulated text for the newsletter was received and discussed.

**Resolved:** Subject to the article about Winter Gritting being reduced in size, the text was approved. The full text of the Winter Gritting would be put on the website.

## **7. Financial Aid Applications**

None.

## **8. Dates of Next Meetings**

22 January (Council); 5 February (Policy & General Purposes Committee)

## **CONFIDENTIAL ITEM**

**Resolved:** That, in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it was advisable in the public interest that the press and public be excluded and they were instructed to withdraw.

*The members of the public present left the meeting.*

## **9. Litter Collection Contract**

A quotation from Wigan Council's Streetscene Services was considered.

**Resolved:** The contract, to the value of £8,091.20, was awarded to Wigan Council's Streetscene Services.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the Meeting at 8:30 pm.

**Chairman**