

BARWICK in ELMET & SCHOLES PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 12th January 2021 at 7pm using remote access

PRESENT:	Councillor	Glyn Davies (Chair)		
	Councillors	Claire Hassell	Jacqueline Ward	Phil Maude
		Graham Slater	Paul Remmer	Stella Walsh
		Howard Bedford		

In attendance: The Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer (RFO).

The Chair played a recording of a statement outlining the procedures to be undertaken to hold a lawful and effective remote meeting.

1 APOLOGIES. None.

2 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST. None.

3 BUDGET AND PRECEPT

The Chair shared various documents with the Committee as follows;

1. The Cash Book, Bank Reconciliation and Budget Monitor produced monthly by the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO).
2. A graph showing the Parish Council (PC) bank balances each month over a five-year period.
3. The precept calculator spreadsheet produced by Leeds City Council (LCC).
4. A suggested budget.

He explained how the first of these was used to extract data for the budget focusing on the income and expenditure pages and how the information on these pages fed into the budget monitor page.

He used the precept calculator to show how much a band D property would pay per year if the precept was set at £34,148 (i.e. the 2020 level), £37,530 and £38,661 (i.e. £40,000 once the LCC Council Tax Support Grant was included). This showed a reduction in precept for a band D household, no change and a 56p increase respectively. A table comparing precept paid by other parishes in the Leeds area had been circulated before the meeting showing that residents of Barwick and Scholes paid less precept than most other parishes. Support for the latter option was mixed with concern about the timing of an increase.

It was **resolved** that the Committee recommend to the full PC a precept of £37,530.

The Committee then went through the suggested budget line by line. The suggested figures were accepted in most cases but there was discussion about some items such as training costs, Campaign to Protect Rural England subscription, garage hire, the Peace Monument and defibrillator maintenance.

Having agreed the necessary changes, it was **resolved** that the Committee recommend to the full PC that the budget be formally adopted.

4. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

19th January 2021 at 7pm using remote access technology.

The meeting closed at 8:25pm