



MINUTES

Meeting: FINANCE & GENERAL
PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Date: 21st December 2020

Time: 7.00pm

Venue: VIRTUAL MEETING, HELD VIA ZOOM, DUE TO COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

PRESENT:

Councillors (12) A Buckley (Chairman), T Blanks*, R Spearman, Mrs S Jackman MBE,
A Tyler, Mrs A Grigg, G Mulliner, Ms C Coop-Rodia, Mrs S Hawkins, M Stroud
A Irvine*, Ms D Wood

* for part of meeting

Also in Attendance (2)

Susan De Luca – Clerk to the Council

Adriana Jones – Principal Finance Officer

Members of the Public (0)

Members of the Press (1)

F.2001 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (2)

NOTED apologies had been received from Councillors Mrs Etherington and Clegg.

F.2002 OTHER ABSENCES (1)

NOTED other absence of Cllr Bedford.

F.2003 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Mulliner declared a non pecuniary interest in any item concerning the North Weald Village Hall.

F.2004 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

There was one exempt item, and as such Councillors **AGREED** by way of resolution to exclude the public and press for this item, believing that the publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be discussed (Local Government Act 1972 and Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960).

F.2005 STAFFING

Councillors **NOTED** the potential changes to staffing, and how these had been assumed for the purposes of budgeting for 2021/2022, noting that any changes would need to be considered by the Personnel Committee. This included the CiLCA qualification training for the PFO and SAO, noting there would be no further costs in 2020/2021.

The press and public were readmitted to the meeting.

F.2006 BUDGET / PRECEPT 2021/2022

Members had been issued with Income and Expenditure papers which, following thorough investigation by the Principal Finance Officer (PFO), included suggested budget figures for 2021/2022, along with supporting notes. Papers also included details of earmarked reserves, and proposed additional items. Members had been advised to review these figures prior to the meeting, and if any members had any questions, these could be individually discussed at the meeting or they could speak with the Principal Finance Officer prior to the meeting. Prior to considering the coming years budget, Councillors **NOTED** the following points:

COVID

By far the biggest factor affecting the accounts, budget and operation of the Council in 2020/2021 has been COVID-19. Not only had this affected both income and expenditure, but has also affected how the Council itself operates, including the withdrawal of the Council from its office in North Weald Library. The Council office is currently temporarily located at the Thornwood Common Parish Hall and will remain so in the short term. There remains considerable uncertainty surrounding the Coronavirus and the affect this will have on the Parish Council, its staff and the services the Council is able to offer. At the time of the meeting, it had been confirmed that Epping Forest District had again moved into Tier 3, with no end date proposed. It is reasonable to assume that there will be little tangible change for the remainder of the current financial year, with the hope that within the first half of the 2021/2022 financial year things may start to get back to some form of normality. The F&GP agenda, and all the associated paperwork, had been prepared with this in mind, however Councillors **NOTED** that a level of uncertainty remained. By the end of this financial year, this Council is expected to have spent around £4,300 on actions directly related to COVID restrictions alone.

Expected income versus budgeted income

Despite the effects of COVID, the total income for the current financial year was expected to be broadly as budgeted (budgeted £255,601 versus expected £256,244, including precept receipt). This has been assisted by a grant of £10,000 from EFDC as a direct result of COVID disruption offsetting some of the loss of income from the Parish Hall, along with a further £8,266 awarded in grant funding for various projects which have not yet taken place, albeit the majority are expected to take place before 31st March 2021.

Expected expenditure versus budgeted expenditure

The expected total expenditure for 2020/2021 shows an overspend of roughly £11,000, however it should be noted that this overspend has occurred as a direct result of using funds from Earmarked Reserves which were not specifically budgeted for spend (although Councillors were aware there would be some spend). In addition, Councillors **NOTED** that the expenditure from different nominal heading codes fluctuated often as a direct result of COVID. A summary of the main differences was as follows:

- Approximate £15,000 **underspend** on Administration (101), including £10,000 underspend in staff salaries and associated costs, mainly due to working from home and moving to online meetings, loss of 1 member of staff before end of contract, plus decrease in photocopying, rent and not needing to fund a new website.
- Approximate £7,000 neighbourhood Plan costs (from EMR) as a result of employing consultant and expected work to take place before end of financial year.
- Installation of CCTV at Parish Hall and associated costs, donation for boiler for Queens Hall and purchase and installation of Defibrillator at the Hastingwood Village Hall (all taken from earmarked reserves)
- Approximate £5,000 **underspend** on Parish Hall, including floor not being varnished as planned for, less overtime as hall closed, and various miscellaneous costs.
- Approximate £7,000 overspend on open spaces, mainly as a result of essential repair works to wetpour in play areas and works to repair damage following vandalism.
- Approximate £1,500 overspend on Street Lighting, due to different type of lamps being installed, and repair works to replace one entire street column. It should be noted that some of these costs will come from the 'Street Light Rolling Replacement' earmarked reserve.
- Approximate £6,000 overspend on Allotments, as a result of creating the community allotment and a large clearance operation at Wheelers Farm Gardens, however it should be noted that almost all of this overspend was either offset by a grant received towards the work, or the monies taken from earmarked reserves.

- Approximate £4,000 overspend on Weald Common, as a result of emergency repair works to the wetpour in the play area, repair following a spate of vandalism, and the backdated invoices for grass cutting of the area for prior years.
- £4,300 costs as a direct result of COVID (unbudgeted).

Capping Consultation

The Parish Council had not been notified of any proposed cap imposed on the setting of the precept for Town and Parish Councils.

Grant Funding

In a very difficult year, where grants have been very hard to come by, the Clerk had managed to obtain a total of £16,500 in grant funding for various projects and issues for this Parish, some of which were only released following pressure from the Clerk, including the COVID grant fund.

Street Lighting

Going forward, where necessary light repair works are needed and where possible, new LED lanterns will be installed. This is more costly to start with (£299 per lantern as opposed to approximately £70), however these lights come with a 10 year guarantee but have a life span of up to 30 years, thereby making a long term saving.

Office Relocation

At the 2019/2020 Budget and Precept meeting, funds were precepted as a result of the uncertainties about the future of the Library in North Weald. Cllr Finch, Leader of Essex County Council then publicly stated that no library would close for the next five years, which resulted in an assurance that the Parish Office was 'safe' for the foreseeable future. However, mainly as a direct result of COVID, and taking into account the end period of the lease and the 5 year security of the Library services, the decision was taken by the Parish Council to permanently move out of the Library. The Council office is now temporarily located at the Thornwood Common Parish Hall, and any funds previously precepted for concerning office accommodation, rent or relocation costs, have now been moved into one central earmarked reserve for a time in the future when a new office is agreed.

Water Supply

In early 2020, the Parish Office received notification that Affinity Water had passed all their services over to Castle Water, and as such the water supply services for the North Weald Allotment, Hastingwood Allotments and the Cemetery would be moving (the Parish Office had no say in the matter). In April and May, new bills were received which were based on estimated figures, were extortionate and did not represent real usage. Councillors **NOTED** there was an ongoing complaint with Castle Water for at least the last six months, with the Parish Council advising they will not be paying the bills until such time as new bills are received (following the PFO providing updated water meter readings on two separate occasions). This issue remains outstanding and may be escalated to OffWat for resolution.

Thornwood Common Parish Hall

The Thornwood Common Parish Hall has suffered greatly this year as a direct result of COVID. A grant award by EFDC of £10,000 went some way to offsetting the financial loss, however as at 31/3/21, even with the £10,000 grant award, the hall is still expected to have run at a loss of approximately £6,000. There remains considerable uncertainty for the coming year.

The Chairman asked those present if they wished to discuss any matters concerning the white papers, which detailed this year's expected income and expenditure, and a proposed budget figure for each heading for 2021/2022. Cllr Blanks went through each income and expenditure line, and raised a number queries which were discussed by Councillors. There were a number of questions raised and alterations made to budget figures, the main discussion points being as follows:

- It was extremely difficult to budget accurately for 2021/2022, as this year had not been a normal year to base next years income and expenditure on.
- COVID-19 – Concern that the amount being precepted for was too low, especially in light of the uncertainty going forward.
- Should all the figures go up by 3% to account for inflation (this was ultimately not agreed)
- Vandalism was on the increase – should the budgeted amounts be increased from those proposed (this was ultimately not agreed, although it was noted vandalism was becoming a problem)
- Noted that no further cost had been agreed to be paid for the wall by the shops in North Weald, however the works to remove the fallen wall was done so by the Parish Council as an urgent matter of Health and Safety and to protect the public, and that this issue was now with the owner of the wall to deal with going forward.
- Income from the Thornwood Common Parish Hall has been estimated at 6 months of hall use, given the uncertainty of COVID, and it was unclear at this stage if any further grant funding would be available.
- The Grounds Maintenance Budget for allotments, as originally proposed by the previous Chairman Cyril Hawkins, was no longer fit for purpose on some of the allotment sites, and it was proposed to consider stopping or changing this at the next Allotment Meeting.
- Thanks were formally recorded to Mr Palfreman and the allotment wardens for their support keeping the allotments and orchard maintained and managed.
- ECC has offered to replace bus shelters for Emberson Way and Upland Road with new bus shelters funded purely by advertising, however it was felt that the more rural bus shelters were more appropriate for this area. The Clerk is dealing with this issue, along with looking at some other bus shelters in the Parish.
- Expenditure in terms of electricity at the Thornwood Common Parish Hall, was an ongoing concern, and was being looked into by the Clerk and PFO.

The following baseline budget figures were **AGREED** for 2021/2022:

BUDGET

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION		
Income		
	Total Income	0
Expenditure		
4001	Staff Salaries	70,000
4003	Superannuation	19,500
4004	Overtime	2,000
4005	Temporary Staff	0
4008	Training	2,000
4009	Travelling Costs	1,500
4013	Rent	0
4020	Misc. Expenses	2,000
4021	Phone Fax Internet	2,100
4022	Postage	500
4023	Stationery	2,000
4024	Subscriptions	1,988
4025	Insurance	4,000
4028	Books & Publications	50
4029	Photocopier Costs	2,500
4030	Software & Computer Mgt	5,670
4040	Equipment Maintenance	500
4041	Equipment & Small Tools	300

4051	Bank Charges	100
4053	Loan Capital Repaid (PWLb)	2,017
4054	Loan Interest Paid (PWLb)	377
4057	Audit Fees - External	800
4058	Audit Fees - Internal	900
4070	Tax and NI	25,356
4075	Website	0
4108	COVID 19	500
4152	Agreed Additional items	0
Total Expenditure		146,658

PRECEPT AND INTEREST		
1176	Precept	TBA
1190	Interest Received	0
Total Income		0

CIVIC AND DEMOCRATIC		
Income		
1082	Donations Received	0
1084	Sponsorship	0
1178	Grants Received - Other	0
Total Income		0
Expenditure		
4019	Hospitality / Chairman's allowance	150
4020	Misc. Expenses	4,000
4035	Newsletter	1,500
4037	Grounds Maintenance	600
4040	Equipment Maintenance	200
4071	Grants Other	0
4102	Notice Boards	200
4105	Vandalism	1,000
4108	COVID-19	500
4143	Election Expenses	0
4152	Agreed Additional items	0
4160	Neighbourhood Plan	0
Total Expenditure		8150

REMEMBRANCE DAY		
Income		
1041	Remembrance Day Income	1,100
1084	Sponsorship	0
Total Income		1,100
Expenditure		
4019	Hospitality / chairman's Allow	100
4142	Remembrance Sunday	1,600
4152	Additional Items	0
Total Expenditure		1,700

PARISH HALL AT THORNWOOD		
Income		
1001	Hall Hire - Regular Users	6,000
1002	Hall Hire - Occasional Users	2,500

1003	Hall Hire - Storage charges	516
1007	Hall Hire - Music Licences	60
1009	Hall Hire - Misc. Income	0
1082	Donations Received	0
Total Income		9,076
Expenditure		
4001	Staff Salaries	6,700
4003	Superannuation	2,300
4004	Overtime	1,300
4014	Utilities	3,550
4016	Cleaning Materials	400
4020	Misc. Expenses	1,000
4026	Music Licence	100
4036	Property Maintenance	2,000
4037	Grounds Maintenance	850
4040	Equipment Maintenance	500
4041	Equipment & Small Tools	100
4049	Litter Collection Contract	950
4070	Tax and NI	100
4108	COVID 19	200
4152	Agreed Additional items	0
Total Expenditure		20,050

CEMETERY		
Income		
1011	Cemetery Interment Fees	5,500
1012	Cemetery Memorial Fees	1,000
1013	Cemetery GOR Purchase	0
1015	Cemetery Transfers	0
1019	Miscellaneous Income	0
1083	Cemetery Plot Purchase	4,000
Total Income		10,500
Expenditure		
4014	Utilities	50
4020	Misc. Expenses	1,000
4036	Property Maintenance	500
4037	Grounds Maintenance	6,000
4043	Grave Digging	1,500
4049	Litter Collection Contract	500
4073	Cemetery Memorial costs	500
4105	Vandalism	0
4152	Agreed Additional Items	0
Total Expenditure		10,050

WEALD COMMON		
Income - NIL		0
Expenditure		
4037	Grounds Maintenance	
4064	Weald Com Play Area	2,000
4074	Weald Common Grounds Maint	2,000
1405	Vandalism	1,000
4152	Agreed Additional items	0

	Total Expenditure	5,000
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OPEN SPACES		
Income		
1031	Dog Bin Recharge Income	280
1080	Misc Income	0
1084	Sponsorship	500
Total Income		780
Expenditure		
4020	Misc. Expenses	4,500
4036	Property Maintenance	500
4037	Grounds Maintenance	0
4040	Equipment Maintenance	200
4066	Thornwood Play Area	2,200
4104	Bus Shelters	50
4105	Vandalism	500
4106	Dog Waste Bins	2,400
4107	Street Signs & Furniture	50
4108	COVID 19	200
4148	Bluemans End Rental	300
4149	Bluemans End Maintenance	1,350
4150	Norwegian Mem Grnds Maint	1,100
4152	Agreed Additional items	0
4155	Pike Way	1,150
4156	Village Sign	650
4157	Thornwood Common	2,000
4159	SGL Play Area	1,350
Total Expenditure		18,500

STREET LIGHTING		
Income - Nil		
Expenditure		
4068	Street Lighting Maintenance	4,000
4072	Street Lighting Electricity	6,000
4105	Vandalism	0
4152	Agreed Additional items	0
Total Expenditure		10,000

ALLOTMENT S		
Income		
1021	Allotment Rents	2,300
1022	Allotment Key Deposits	0
Total Income		2,300
Expenditure		
4014	Utilities	1,200
4020	Misc. Expenses	1,200
4036	Property Maintenance	100
4037	Grounds Maintenance	2,000
4040	Equipment Maintenance	300
4108	COVID 19	0

Total Expenditure	4,800
TOTAL INCOME	£23,756
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£224,908

Councillors then discussed the proposed additional items, and **AGREED** the following:

ITEM		Agreed Precept Amount	Take From Earmarked Reserve
1	Play Area Emergency Works Fund (Move to EMR). In 2019/2020, £4000 was held in the EMR, and this was felt to be sufficient and no further funds have been precepted since this time. However in 2020/201, all these funds have been used as a result of the emergency Wetpour and play area works that were needed. Councillors AGREED to build up this fund again.	£2,000.00	
2	Weald Common (Move to EMR). The budgeted cost to maintain Weald Common for 2021/2022 is £4,500. There is no income directly received, and as at 31/3/21 the amount held in the EMR is expected to be £6,555. This gives broadly one and half years running costs. For some years, the Council did not specifically precept any income for Weald Common as it held a healthy earmarked reserve, however in light of reduced amount, Councillors AGREED to precept funds for Weald Common to be placed into EMR to account for any future high or unexpected costs.	£3,000.00	
3	The Drainage on Weald Common is causing numerous problems in terms of use throughout the winter months. The Clerk is liaising with the Chairman, Cllr Bedford, Environment Agency and contractors concerning what action could be taken to combat this issue. There is an amount in the Earmarked reserves for the Pathway created at Weald Common to safely access the play area, however any repairs we conduct to the pathway at present are futile against the torrent of water running down the common during the winter months. Councillors AGREED to precept £3,000 for these works, plus use the £4,924 from the WC Pathway fund, to try and address this issue. However some concern was expressed that the quote obtained was too low, and it was AGREED that the Clerk would liaise with EFDC Land Drainage to assess what works were needed and if the quote obtained was reasonable and would address the problem.	£3,000.00	£4,924.00
4	Neighbourhood Plan. It is expected that in 2021, the draft plan will be created. Professional planning experts have been appointed to assist with creating the plan itself, however there will be further costs with both designing and printing the draft plan, as well as the Regulation 14 consultation. No costs were precepted for in 2019/2020, however £8,000 was precepted for in 2020/2021. The expected EMR for the Neighbourhood Plan fund is expected to stand at £15,800 as at 31/3/21. Councillors AGREED to transfer the Local Plan Legal Advice EMR (£4,256) into the Neighbourhood Plan EMR.	£0.00	£4,256.00
5	Replacement bench at Garden outside shops in North Weald, together with laying of new floor surfacing at this location, and the refurbishment of various benches throughout the Parish. It was AGREED that these funds are taken from the Handyman Fund, which must be spent by 31st March 2022. The costs proposed were estimated.	£0	£2,500.00

6	Fund for replacement of old pipe between Parish Hall at Thornwood and Allotments. As advised last year, the pipe is extremely old, and if it needs to be replaced in the future it will be very costly. These costs would be placed into an earmarked reserve (£250 was placed into EMR in 2020/2021 after it was agreed a fund should be built up for these works). Cllr Spearman advised that he had spoken to the Councils Handyman who had advised that this was a mistake. As such, it was AGREED not to precept for any further funds for these works.	£0.00	
7	Street Lighting - Rolling Replacement Fund. Based on the average cost of replacing 1 x street Lighting Column of between £4-5,000. It was AGREED to precept £5,000 to be placed into EMR.	£5,000.00	
8	Parish Hall - replacement of internal lighting. For the past two years, Councillors agreed that £2000 should be moved from the Brent House Farm S106 funds and placed into an EMR for the full replacement of internal lighting at the Parish Hall. This fund now stands at £4,000. The cost to replace the lighting is expected to be around £5,000. Councillors AGREED to precept the final £1,000 for these works. Cllr Tyler confirmed long term this would create a saving for the council in terms of electricity costs.	£1,000.00	
9	Handyman - Match Fund from Local Services Fund grant award for next two years (it was agreed as part of the grant awarded to the Council in 2019/2020 that the Council would match fund a total of £7000 over a three year period, the first two years already accounted for. This would be the third and final year. Councillors AGREED).	£2,000.00	
10	Vandalism. It was agreed at the December 2019 Budget and Precept meeting that the issues of Vandalism, and any suggested budget, should be considered each year. Within the budget for 2021/2022, a total amount of £1,500 has been precepted for vandalism. Should this not be needed, these funds will be moved to EMR. Councillors AGREED this was sufficient.	£0.00	
11	Barriers at Thornwood Common Parish Hall. It has become extremely apparent over the last 12 months that the Parish Hall Car Park is used as a local place for a wide range of unsavoury behaviour, including drug taking and drug dealing, amongst other things. This is an issue that the Clerk has considered in great detail, and an issue which is difficult to address without causing possible disruption to legitimate users of the car park. After much consideration, it is suggested that barriers are erected at the car park entrance to allow the Council to manage car park during unsociable hours. Council AGREED to precept funds for this, however the exact barriers and how they would operate (and who would / could operate them) would need to be agreed by the Hall Committee. It was AGREED we may also need to look at brighter external lighting at the hall to support the CCTV.	£1,500.00	
12	Battery Lights for Christmas Tree. The battery powered lights used for the Christmas Tree in North Weald have come to the end of their life, and new lights are needed. AGREED to pay for these out of General Reserves.	£0.00	
13	Various Projects for Hastingwood including 'Everything Council' public event, funding of litter pick equipment, planting along verges, and tidying up of existing sign, new Village Sign, village green area, improving bus stops, notice boards, etc. The Clerk had provided a package of information for each Councillor, following a meeting that had taken place with Hastingwood Councillors the prior Saturday. Cllr Irvine provided a detailed summary of the proposals and had put forward a plan of various improvements for Hastingwood (as per sheet attached to the agenda). Much of these works were expected to be dealt with and managed by residents. Councillors AGREED to precept £1,500 to start with, and any additional funds needed for these works could come from the S106 Hastingwood Fund (poss around £15,000), and that any proposals for	£1,500.00	

	works would in the first instance be presented to Council for approval of funding.		
14	Parking Signs for PC Owned parking spaces at Weald Common. Council AGREED to the formal marking of parking signs at Weald Common for spaces owned by the Parish Council.	£1,500.00	
15	New permitter fencing Queens Road Allotments. Following the creation of new housing adjacent to the entrance to the Queens Road Allotments, consideration needs to be given to the replacing of permitter fencing at the entrance to the allotment site this location, for reasons of security. Councillors AGREED that new fencing and possibly a gate should be installed, following a number of instances of youths using this area as a cut through. The Clerk has been liaising with District Councillor Holly Whitbread concerning the works taking place at this site.	£2,500.00	
16	Transfer of all historic paperwork and documentation onto electronic storage. The Clerk has looked into the cost of transferring the large amount of historic data onto an electronic cloud based system, to ensure accessibility for future generations. There is a one off cost of £5490 for the first year, which includes the complete transfer to data and first years storage, followed by subsequent annual fee of £780. Councillors AGREED to these works.	£5,490.00	
17	During the wetter winter months, the car parking area at Wheelers Farm Gardens Allotments becomes extremely wet, making it difficult to use the parking area and causing mud to be deposited along the adjacent neighbours drive way. The approximate size of this parking area is 37sq m. Councillors AGREED that some solution should be considered, however Cllr Coop-Rodia asked that all possible solutions should be considered fully, not just matting, to ensure that a long term suitable solution is agreed.	£2,000.00	
18	CCTV Play Area and open Space Memorial Playing Fields. Following discussion with the Chairman of the Queens Hall, Council is asked to CONSIDER the installation of two cameras to the Queens Hall CCTV which will cover the Play Area and basket ball court areas, following numerous occurrences of anti social behaviour. The Council still holds an EMR of £1,900 for emergency works at the Queens Hall, so it is assumed these funds could be used to contribute to the cost. Cllr Wood gave a full summary of the problems at this location, stating that extra cameras would benefit the community as a whole. It was AGREED to precept some funds, and use the remaining EMR held for the Queens Hall Emergency Works on this issue.	£181.00	£1,900.00
19	Aftercare for Trees following expected planting of a number of trees in the Parish - including weeding, watering and mowing.(approx 3 hours per month). Councillors AGREED £600 for the maintenance of trees.	£600.00	
Total Additional Items		£31,271.00	£13,580.00

Earmarked Reserves

Earmarked reserves, which are set aside for specific purposes and for savings for future projects, should be realistic and approved by the council. However, the amount of general reserves should be risk assessed annually and also approved by the council. It is recognised general good practice that the minimum level of General Reserves a Parish Council should hold is between 25%-100% of the precept. Larger councils would be nearer the 25% end. The current predicted figures for 31st March 2021 show that the level of General Reserves (i.e. those reserves that have not been placed into an earmarked fund) is expected to be around 25% of the precept. The Parish Council

has a high level of Earmarked Reserve, greater than 100% of the precept. A number of EMR transfers were proposed. Councillors **CONSIDERED** the expected level of reserves, and **AGREED** them as being sufficient at this time, given the high level of earmarked reserves.

Councillors **NOTED** that last year, the Parish Council element of the Precept for a band D property was £85.91 (£1.65 a week). The calculation to get to this is the amount the Council request in precept divided by the tax base (no. of houses EFDC are expecting to collect council tax from), which for last year was as follows:

$$£222,545 / 2590.50 = £85.91$$

The tax base for 2021/2022 had reduced to 2565.20 from 2590.50 last year. If the Parish Council wishes to show a NIL increase in the parish council element of Council tax for next year, the maximum amount the Council can demand of EFDC in terms of precept would be £220,376.

$$£220,376 / 2565.20 = £85.91$$

This means that instead of applying for a precept of £222,545, the Parish Council would need to apply for £220,376. It is appreciated that in terms of calculations for this Council, this is a reduction in what was demanded last year, however changes in the Council Tax Base ultimately change the calculation of the Parish Council element of the Council Tax.

Councillors **NOTED** that a NIL increase would mean a shortfall of roughly £12,000 based on expected income and expenditure.

Councillor Mulliner **PROPOSED** there should be a NIL increase in the precept, specifically as a result of the hardship that many residents had faced, and are still facing, in the current year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in light of the fact that other authorities are likely to increase their precept. This would mean a precept of £220,376. This was **SECONDED** by Cllr Buckley. A vote was taken the result of which was as follows:

10 – For
2 – Against
0 – Abstention

The Finance and General Purposes Committee therefore **RESOLVED** to put a recommendation to full Council to request a precept of £220,376 for the period 2021/2022.

Meeting closed 9.10pm

Signed

Date