

Dinnington St John's Town Council

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting on Monday 27th January 2025 at 7.00pm in Middleton Hall, Barleycroft Lane, Dinnington

Present: Cllrs N Ruff (Chair), D Booth, L Clarke, G Cruickshanks, J Hall, W Hall, J Hart, Z Lowe, T Mulholland, K Smallwood, D Smith, F Walden.

Apologies: Cllr D Adams, S Scott, D Scriven

In attendance: T Collingham (Clerk), L Warne (Asst Clerk) C Radford (Town Council Administrator) and 7 members of public.

23/25 To answer questions from the last meeting

To allow for questions from electors of Dinnington to ask one question only in respect of business itemised on the agenda or on a pertinent issue that may arise;

The public raised whether questions could be asked after the item discussing the precept. The Council agreed that this item may be moved to later in the agenda.

24/25 To receive and consider any reasons for absence

Resolved:- That the Council agreed to accept the reasons for absence from Cllr D Adams, Cllr S Scott and Cllr D Scriven

25/25 To receive and record any declarations of interest and if necessary, to receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests and grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate

No declarations of interest were raised.

26/25 To identify any agenda items which may be considered following the exclusion of the press and public, due to the confidential nature to be discussed. Under Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, S1 (2)):

No items for exclusion

27/25 To discuss and agree the final budget for 2025/2026, set Precept for the next financial year, and authorise the Clerk to write to RMBC to notify them of the Precept agreed.

The Clerk advised the Council of the challenges in setting a budget without much prior history to the Council. Therefore, much of the budget is copied from the current year with inflationary increases or decreases where major underspends were apparent. Also, there has been allowance for the incorporation of the increase in staffing costs due to the recent recruitment and inclusion of any projects and events that have been put forward by the Council.

The Council reviewed the budget and agreed to adjust some proposed lines to bring the overall budgetary increase down to a level that reflected the current climate for residents as well as being able to deliver council services and events that have been proposed.

The agreed budget proposed a precept demand of £326,933. This will result in a Band D equivalent increase from £115.19 to £125 a year.

Due to the earlier resolution in Item 23/25 to allow member of the public to ask questions after the precept, there was a period of public questions after the budget discussion

- Bi-election costs – The Clerk confirmed that over £20k was spent on the May election and the bi-election in November – this included the reduction in price for no ballot papers but we still have to pay for the staffing and administration.
- Active Regen – How will this be managed differently? It was confirmed as part of an early resolution monitoring updates will be provided to the council.
- What happens to unspent budget lines - It was advised that the money would become part of a General Reserve and be reallocated to projects or cost lines as directed by the council.

Chairman Signature:

Resolved:- That the Council agreed to a precept demand of £326,933 and that this be approved and called for from RMBC, to meet the budget requirement for 2025/26, and that the Clerk should send the notification to RMBC.

28/25

Date and time of next meeting:

10th February 2025 at 7pm in The Lyric, Laughton Road

Meeting Closed: 20:02