

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on
Tuesday 19 January 2021 via Zoom**

PRESENT: Cllrs S Hellewell, A Baskeyfield, L Newton, R Brook, K Waites, N Denby, J Patterson, K Carr, G Turner, M Blanshard, K Waites, P Flinders, W Simpson & C Naylor

IN ATTENDANCE: C Wadsworth, Clerk to the Council

19/064 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

19/065 Open Session

There were no members of the public present

19/066 Apologies for Absence

No councillors were absent.

19/067 Admission of the Public

RESOLVED that there were no items requiring the exclusion of the press and public.

19/068 Budget Outturn 2020

Budget Outturn – Cllr Brook referred to the budget outturn circulated, He stated that the council was on target to achieve the aim of reducing the reserves as per the reserves policy which had been re-confirmed. He noted that the software used had been used to calculate a projected spend, however as this used a formula of 10mths divided by the current spend and multiplied by 12, it was not accurate for some budget lines. He also noted that the grants line was not overspent as some grants awarded late in the last FY had only been drawn down in this FY, therefore the grants line was still underspent. The spend under the Community Grant Aid line amounted to £10,000 which was the final payment to Cumberworth FC and two payments totalling £7,500 awarded to the Denby Dale Centre for the Denby Dale Food Fund. Cllr Brook also stated that, due to current circumstances, there had been little draw down of the Small Grant line despite the extension to the deadline. **RESOLVED** that the outturn was noted by councillors.

19/069 Draft Budget 2021-22

RESOLVED that there were no amendments to the agreed budget.

19/070 Precept Decision – Cllr Brook referred to the options circulated and the taxbase received from Kirklees Council of £5784, which was slightly down on last year, as, despite the increase in house numbers, Covid had had an effect on the ability to pay council tax by some residents. Due to the lower tax base, Denby Dale is eligible for the Council Tax Reduction Grant which it didn't receive last year.

Cllr Brook informed the meeting that he, as Finance Chair, had met with the Vice Chairman of Finance Cllr Turner, the Chairman Cllr Denby and the Clerk via Zoom to discuss the two options presented. Option 1 would result in a reduction of reserves more immediately, however Option 2 would be in line with the current reserves policy to reduce reserves in stages. Cllr Brook stated that reducing the reserves as per Option 1 would result in a large Council Tax increase next year, or a large cut in next year's budget, therefore they recommended Option 2. Following a discussion, where it was generally agreed that the Council could be called upon to provide an increase in grants to assist struggling groups and groups needing to re-start their functions, that Option 2 would be advisable, and would be in-keeping with the re-confirmed Reserves Policy.

RESOLVED that the Finance & General Purposes Committee recommend Option 2, a Precept of **£151,000**, to the February Full Council meeting.

19/071 Grant Application for Skelmanthorpe United JFC for £2,911.80 towards a mower:

RESOLVED that questions about the application from councillors be passed to the Clerk on Wednesday to be sent to the club and that the grant be re-considered at the February Full Council meeting.

19/072 Orders for Payment

RESOLVED that orders for payment number 774 totalling £10,320.29 be approved for payment

19/073 Date of next F&GP meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 16 March 2021

Signed.....  **CHAIR**