

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on  
Tuesday 18 January 2022**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs S Hellewell, R Brook, G Turner, H McKerchar & P Flinders

**IN ATTENDANCE:** C Wadsworth, Clerk to the Council

**21/023 Declarations of Interest**

**21/024 Open Session**

**21/025 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Carr, Blanshard, Baskeyfield and Denby. Late apologies were received from Cllr Simpson. Cllr Patterson was not present.

**RESOLVED** that the reasons for absence were accepted.

**21/026 Admission of the Public**

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

**21/027 Budget Outturn**

Cllr Brook referred to the updated, tabled budget outturn and stated that as agreed, the aim of the council was to reduce reserves this financial year, He also stated that it appeared that the Community Grants budget line was overspent, however much of this was expenditure from last years grants unclaimed and for the Emley ARLFC earmarked reserves, therefore this line was still underspent, along with the Citizens Advice Bureau budget line and small and schools grants, due to the effects of the pandemic. The countryside officer however, was hopeful that there would be more uptake this year of the Eco-Schools award.

**21/028 Draft Budget Review 2022-2023**

The committee agreed that there were no budget lines to alter, and therefore reconfirmed the committed budget as previously recommended to Full Council and agreed.

**21/029 Precept –**

Cllr Brook referred to the precept discussion paper. He reminded councillors that the aim was to reduce the level of reserves to £300K, and that the council were agreed to review the Reserves Policy in June. It had also been agreed to reduce the level of reserves at a steady rate over a number of years, avoiding sudden lurches in council tax. Cllr Brook referred to the Council Tax Calculation spreadsheet provided by Kirklees, and noted that the number of taxable properties had slightly increased, with the net effect that the Council Tax base had increased. The Reduction Grant was no longer due. The Council Tax base calculation was based on £1 per property adjusted to a Band D equivalent. Approximately two thirds of properties in this area were below this level.

Cllr Brook referred to the four suggested options circulated:

Option 1: which would give a reduced council tax

Option 2: which would give a standstill council tax

Option 3: which would give a 3% increase

Option 4: which would give a 6.1% increase in line with inflation

He suggested that Option 2 would allow a balance of income and expenditure and reduce reserves, and as some budget lines were underspent it would be wrong to increase Council Tax. It was also prudent to ensure healthy reserves to invest in the community in the future.

**RESOLVED** that **Option 2: to precept £156,000, be recommended to Full Council**

**21/030 Orders for Payment**

**RESOLVED** that orders for payment number 797 totalling £19,284.89 be approved for payment

**21/031 Date of next F&GP meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for 15 March 2022

Signed..... **CHAIR**