

## Dalton Piercy Parish Council

### Minutes of Extraordinary Meeting held on Thursday 4 January 2024 at 7.00pm at Dalton Piercy Village Hall

Jeremy Middleton signed the Acceptance of Office Form and was welcomed as a Parish Councillor.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the year, which had been convened solely to discuss and agree the budget for 2024-25, and agree the Precept demand.

**Present:** Cllrs Noble (in the Chair), Ireland, Middleton, Patrick, Savage and Timothy.

**In Attendance:** One resident.

The Chair gave the floor to Cllr Ireland, who began by explaining that, having checked the Cash Book, the discrepancy noted at the December meeting had simply been due to wrong allocation of items; the actual total expenditure was accurate.

Cllr Ireland went on to explain that she had made a 'guesstimate' of likely expenditure to 31<sup>st</sup> March, and then used the totals in each budget head to identify where, if at all, any areas required an increase or reduction in the budget. Her draft budget had been circulated to all Councillors in advance of the meeting, in order that they could consider the recommendations.

She then talked through the budget, giving her rationale for the proposals. Cllr Timothy felt the allocation for Village Maintenance was too low, given that the Council had agreed to employ a contractor as and when necessary, to undertake works required to keep the village tidy. He proposed this be increased to £3,000 from £2,000. **Unanimously agreed.**

Cllr Timothy further requested the amount allocated for Legal Fees be reduced by £1,000, as it was unlikely that another extraordinary issue would arise in the new financial year. **Unanimously agreed.**

Cllr Ireland further explained that she had added £4,995 for a potential project, but this was balanced out with the exact same figure as income, so any project agreed during the year would be limited to this amount and would have no impact on the precept.

HBC had agreed to an increase in the Concurrent Payment up to a maximum of 3.5%; she had therefore increased the Concurrent Payment income accordingly.

The difference between planned Expenditure and known Income, would be the precept figure.

Councillors concurred with the figures and **agreed** the Precept demand, including the Local Council Tax Support Grant, be **£13,635**. This equates to a 10% increase overall.

The Precept Demand form was completed and signed by Cllrs Noble, Patrick and Savage, with Cllr Ireland signing as Acting Clerk/RFO.

The meeting closed at 7.35pm.