

**MINUTES OF STANTON PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET MEETING, HELD ON 22 NOVEMBER 2018 IN THE STANTON COMMUNITY VILLAGE HALL AT 7.00 PM**

**Present:** F J Hart, (Vice Chair), J Miller, J Mann, B Smithson, L Morris, J Frizzell

**1. Election of new Chair following the resignation of Cllr Neil Chapman.** The Vice Chair asked for nominations for the position of Chair for 2018-2019. Cllr Frizzell nominated Cllr Hart. The nomination was seconded by Cllr Morris. There being no other nominations Cllrs were asked to vote by a show of hands in accordance with Standing Order 8. Cllr Miller was concerned that although she had every confidence in his ability to be Chair - if the position was given to Cllr Hart then the Chair and the Clerk may be absent at the same time which would not be good for contacting the Council and therefore abstained. Cllr Hart received 3 votes. He accepted the position and was duly elected Chair for 2018-2019. Cllr Hart signed and dated the 'Acceptance of Office'. This was counter signed by the Responsible Officer. Cllr Hart then took over the Chair for the meeting.

**Election of Vice Chair.** The Chair asked for nominations for the position of Vice Chair. Cllr Miller nominated Cllr Smithson. The nomination was seconded by Cllr Mann. There being no other nominations, Cllrs were asked to vote by a show of hands in accordance with Standing Order 8. All in favour. Cllr Smithson accepted the position and was duly elected Vice Chair for 2018-19.

**2. Apologies for Absence.** Apologies for absence accepted: S Willcox, A Kemp, B Brown  
No Apologies received – M Scowcroft

**3. Approve minutes of previous meeting: - 8 November 2018.** The minutes were accepted as correct. The Chair signed and dated the minutes.

**4. Budget:**

**a) To consider the budget and approve the precept request for the year 2019/20.** The clerk issued a budget analysis for the year 2018/19, showing expenditure to date and projected expenditure for the remainder of the year. It is anticipated that the level of reserve at the end of this Financial Year will be in the Region of £62000

The following items had been submitted for consideration and were discussed and agreed as follows -

- (Reserves) Car Park extension – (15m x 15m - quote of £3,700 May 2017). After discussion it was agreed that the extension of the size required (based on the quotation) would be a significant project. This has now been proposed for a number of years. Cllr Miller pointed out that when the Village Hall is being fully utilised and the Recreation Ground also has activities on then parking is a problem and proposed that the Parish Council get an up to date costing for the extension which was agreed. A presentation from the football Club at the previous Council meeting in November had identified the need for adequate parking should the Sports facilities be improved. It would be prudent to investigate further sources of funding such as Section 106 monies from new developments, Sport England, the National Lottery and the Football Association to see what grants are available. £3000 of reserves can be ring fenced for Consultation costs for the project to improve the Sports facilities.
- (S137 Village budget) Young person's activities funding pot to remain at £1000 to encourage new clubs.
- (Special Projects Budget 19/20) Replacement Flagpole and Installation up to £1000
- (Special Projects budget 19/20) Additional Defibrillator up to a value of £2000 to be sited on North side at Uplands Way Veterinary Surgery
- (Special Projects Budget 19/20) New Allotment Fencing up to a value of £5000
- (Special Projects Budget 19/20) Bury Lane trees and hedgerows to be reduced at a cost of £2500– essential works as some trees are in danger of coming down due to excess ivy.
- (Reserves) Up to £10,000 costs ring fenced in the event of a contested election in May 2019
- (Reserves) Up to £10,000 costs ring fenced for project to reduce A143 Speed limit.
- (Reserves) £1000 for Community Transport Project

The above matters considered, a total of £10,500 was set aside in Special Projects for the matters agreed. The remaining budget for the year 2019/20 was considered and a draft budget, for approval at the December meeting was set.

**Changes to last year's budget agreed**

- Staff Salaries – increased in line with rise in minimum wage from April 2019 and increased pay scale for Clerk in line with NALC guidelines.
- Admin increased by £50. Phone and internet costs reduced by £80 – market rates.
- Cemetery Grass Cutting reduced by £700 as both St Johns and All Saints now being maintained by West Suffolk Council. Recreation Ground grass cutting increased by £450 due to market rates.
- Special Projects budget increased as outlined above

The final budget is therefore an increase of 2.41% (Total of £1.70 per annum per Band D property) from last year. £1000 of reserves has been contributed to the budget due to the flagpole project not completed in the current financial year.

The Budget figures and Precept and Grant request will be discussed and approved at the Parish Council meeting to be held on 13 December 2018.

**b) Donations:**

The following letters requesting donations were discussed and after consideration were granted -

- Ixworth Surgery patient's association transport scheme - £50
- Community Transport Service (Rickinghall - but covering Stanton) - £1000 ring fenced for donation towards replacement mini bus (Expected to need replacing in 2022/23)

No other donation requests had been received and after discussion the following donations were proposed and agreed

- Citizens Advice Bureau - £100
- Royal British Legion - £50

**There was no other business and the meeting concluded at 9.05pm.**

**The date of the next scheduled Parish Council meeting is Thursday 13 December 2018 at 7.00p.m.**

**Minutes signed as correct..... (F J Hart - Chair)**