

Hales & Heckingham Parish Council

MINUTES OF MEETING

Held at Hales Village Hall on 13th Dec. 2018

Present:

HHPC Councillors: Sheila Beckett (SB) - Chair
Phil Grimes (PG)
John Herring (JH)
Alan Mason (AM)
Sam Matthews (SM) – Arrived at 19.40
Andy Woodman (AW)

Parish Clerk Eleanor Bannister (EB)

In Attendance 2 members of the public

1. **Welcome** – The Chair opened the meeting at 19.30.
2. **Apologies for Absence** – Were received from Georgina Buckle.
3. **Declarations of Interest** – None were received.
4. **Adjourn for Public Participation / Forum** – No questions / discussion.
5. **Reconvene the Meeting** - The Chair reconvened the meeting.
6. **To Agree the 2019/20 Precept for the Parish**
AM had previously circulated a summary with a recommendation for the 2019/20 budget. The recommendation was for a real-term increase in the precept of 5%. (This would be the first increase in several years.)

On a tax base of 246 residences with a 'Band D' charge this would result in an increase of £1.63 per year, per household within the tax base. It was noted that this would help with the additional costs that were being incurred such as the maintenance of the playing field and bus stops, and would also help address the gap given the South Norfolk government grant would be zero compared to £107 in 2017/2018.

The 5% increase was proposed by AM, seconded by AW and approved by all. It was agreed that the expenses proposal would remain the same. Two precept forms (one for Hales and one for Heckingham) were duly signed by the Chair and Clerk, indicating a 5% increase. *[These forms have since been submitted to South Norfolk Council who have confirmed receipt. SN Council have also confirmed that sending two forms was an error on their part and in future, only one form would need to be completed.]*
7. **Any other business**
 - 7.1 **Planning application 2018/1934 and question raised by a member of the public.**
The Council has responded to the planning application as previously agreed, and the member of the public will be advised to contact the planning department of SN Council directly.

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7.2 Facebook

PG confirmed the procedure for questions received via Facebook:

- Where the question required a simple, factual response the reply would be given directly on Facebook or Messenger.
- Where the question required the opinion or discussion of the Parish Council, the person would be advised to send the question in writing or by email to the Parish Clerk so that it could be dealt with as correspondence.

7.3 Avocet House

It was reported that Avocet House had spoken to those in the vicinity and a letter of apology would be sent out from them. *[Since the meeting AM has confirmed that a letter of apology was delivered to residents living locally.]*

7.4 **Norfolk County Council (NCC) Highways** (In relation to the roundabout, obstruction on Old Beccles Road and flooding on Green Lane) The Council noted it was continuing to seek a response from NCC Highways (Tim Vincent) and if there was none, it would consider advising County Councillor Margaret Stone of the Council's concerns.

7.5 No Cold Calling Zone

AM reported that the majority of residents in Briar Lane were positive to the pilot scheme and that he would complete and submit the forms.

7.6 Transfer of Website

PG confirmed the transfer to a WordPress site was underway. Plus, shortening the 'admin@halesandheckingham-pc.gov.uk' address was being considered, old images would be removed, information on the composting scheme would be added and councillors photos would be updated. AW and EB confirmed their interest in viewing progress.

8. Date of Next Meeting

Confirmed: Wednesday 13th February 2019 at Hales Village Hall.

The meeting was closed at 8.00pm.

EB – 9th Jan. 2019