

Ecclesfield Parish Council

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Minutes of Meeting of the Finance and Premises Committee held remotely on Thursday, 16 December 2021

Commenced: 7.00pm - Concluded: 7.50pm

Councillors Present. Kate Guest (Chairman), David Ogle (Vice-Chairman), Victoria Bowden, John Brownrigg (Ex-Officio), Susan Davidson, John Housley (Ex-Officio) and Thomas Sturgess.

Absent Councillors. None.

Officers: Andrew Towlerton - Clerk (minute taker) and Laura Tickle - Administration Officer.

Members of the Public. None.

Chairman's Announcement

Before the formal commencement of the meeting, the Chairman, Councillor Kate Guest, outlined the procedure for this remote meeting to ensure that the meeting was effective, lawful, and safe. It was reported that the Council would be recording the meeting to assist with minute taking.

2021/87	Item 87: Apologies and Reasons for Absence		
<u>(F&P)</u>	There were none.		
2021/88 (F&P)	Item 88: Declarations of Interests		
(1. 0.1.)	There were none.		
2021/89 (F&P)	9 Item 89: Exclusion of Press and Public		
(rar)	The Chairman explained that she considered that there were three items on the agenda that required the exclusion of the press or public for their consideration due to the confidential nature of the business to be considered. These were items 2021/92 Budget and Precept 2022/23; 2021/93 Review of Telephone/Telecommunications Contract and 2021/94 Internal Improvement to the Council Offices. It was also agreed to move their consideration to the end of the agenda.		
	Proposed by Councillor John Brownrigg and seconded by Councillor Thomas Sturgess and RESOLVED: That the press and public be excluded from items 2021/92 Budget and Precept 2022/23; 2021/93 Review of Telephone/Telecommunications Contract and 2021/94 Internal Improvement to the Council Offices. (7 in favour)		

Signed Chairman:	Dated:	Page 1
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2021/90 **Item 90: Public Participation Session** (F&P) There were no questions raised by members of the public. **Item 91: Finance and Premises Committee Minutes** 2021/91 (F&P) Councillor Kate Guest provided a brief overview of the approved minutes and matters arising from the meeting held on 18 November 2021. Councillor Susan Davidson asked whether where a grant affected one or more wards the amount awarded should normally be apportioned based on the number of councillors in each of the concerned wards rather than split equally amongst the wards. It was agreed that the starting point should be the number of councillors in the concerned wards (2021/81). Laura Tickle was thanked for providing a comprehensive list of grants awarded by month (2021/81). It was confirmed that the tenders had been invited from suitable qualified bodies to provide the internal audit service for the Council (2021/84). Councillor John Housley provided a progress report on proposed improvement to notice boards and park benches. 2021/92 Item 92: Budget and Precept 2022/23 (F&P) The Clerk and responsible Financial Officer gave a verbal report on the proposed budget estimates and precept for 2022/23 as well as income and expenditure to the end of the current financial year. An indication was also given within the report as to the amount of increase both per year on a Band D property based upon the possible precept levels Members examined the proposed budget in detail before considering the overall value of the precept. In particular, they focused on what percentage increase, if any, they considered to be appropriate. Members agreed 3% as an acceptable level noting that this was below the present inflation rate. This would mean that the precept for the financial year 2022/23 would be an estimated £272,192. Proposed by Councillor John Brownrigg and seconded by Councillor John Housley and **RESOLVED:** It is recommended to Council that the precept charge for 2022/23 be increased by 3% equating to an estimated income of £272,192. (7 in favour) 2021/93 Item 93: Review of Telephone/Telecommunications Contract (F&P) It was reported that the Council had received three quotes to provide its Telephone/Telecommunications service. These were then considered. Proposed by Councillor John Brownrigg and seconded by Councillor Thomas Sturgess and **RESOLVED:** It is recommended to Council that BT be appointed to provide its Telephone and Telecommunications service for 2022/2023 on the basis of their quote dated 29 November 2021. (7 in favour) <u>Item 94: Internal Improvements to the Council Offices</u> 2021/94 (F&P) The quote received from Homes4Yorkshire following the tender process was discussed. This was in furtherance of minute 2021/152 (FC) (1). Proposed by Councillor John Brownrigg and seconded by Councillor John Housley and **RESOLVED:** That Homes4Yorkshire be appointed to undertake the internal improvements to the Council offices as detailed in their tender dated 30 November 2021 (7 in favour)

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Item 95: Purchase of the Chairman's Chain and Cabinet 2021/95 (F&P) This was discussed. Proposed by Councillor David Ogle and seconded by Councillor Susan Davidson and **RESOLVED:** It is recommended to Council that: 1. Thomas Fattorni Ltd be appointed to repair and enhance the Chairman's Chain of Office and pendant up to a value of £3,250, plus VAT. 2. A display case be purchased from Displays UK up to a value of £250, plus VAT. 3. A specific earmarked reserve be provided in the budget for repairs and improvements to the Chairman's Chain and that £250 a year be allocated to it for this purpose. (7 in favour) **Item 96: Other Correspondence** 2021/96 (F&P) The Clerk reported that the storage/CCTV room located next to Chapeltown toilets as well as the toilets themselves had both been the subject of vandalism in recent weeks. This was then discussed. It was agreed to consider the agreement between the Council and Sheffield City Council at the February 2022 meeting of the Finance and Premises Committee. **Item 97: Date and Time of Future Meetings** 2021/97 (F&P) It was confirmed that the date of the next meeting was scheduled for Thursday 27 January 2022 at 7pm. It was confirmed that the date of the next Council meeting was scheduled for Thursday 13 January 2022 at 7.15pm.

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