

**THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE WHEATLEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 10 JANUARY 2022**

Present: Councillor J Miller (Chair)
Councillors E Carr, J Collingwood, M Goyns,
J Huntington, B Miller, C Stogdale, L White

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor L Stewart.

2 BUDGET SETTING 2022/2023

The Clerk reported that at a meeting of the Parish Council held on 13 December 2021 Members were provided details of the figures related to the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (LCTRS) grant and tax base for the forthcoming 2022/2023 financial year.

Members were advised that the LCTRS grant for 2022/2023 had reduced from £12,672 to £8,432 which was a reduction of £4,240 from the previous year and the tax base had increased from 741.9 to 777.9.

The Clerk had provided Members with various options and a range of figures for consideration. It was pointed out that the LCTRS grant was reducing year on year and if the Parish Council wished to continue financially supporting activities, events and projects in the village it would need to consider increasing the budget. In previous years, the Parish Council had used reserves to keep the precept low. Members suggested an increase of 4.8% to the precept which would provide the Parish Council with an additional £1,117. This would equate to a standstill charge for a Band D property in Wheatley Hill.

The Clerk had prepared a detailed budget based on this, a copy of which was circulated to each Member.

The Clerk took Members through the budget and advised that the Parish Council required £132,391 for the 2022/2023 financial year. It was suggested that the Parish Council use £7,048 of reserves to provide a precept of £116,911 which together with the grant of £8,432 gave a figure of £125,343.

As part of the budget process Members considered the burial and allotment fees and agreed that they be retained at their current levels.

RESOLVED that: -

- (i) the Parish Council set a budget of £132,391 for the 2022/2023 financial year
- (ii) approval be granted to use £7,048 of reserves to give a precept request of £116,911
- (iii) Durham County Council be advised that the Parish Councils precept request for 2022/2023 was £116,911 in addition to a grant of £8,432 giving a total of £125,343.

..... Signed

..... Dated