



**Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Governance Committee held remotely  
via Teams video link on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

**The chairman reminded everyone that the meeting was being recorded.**

**PRESENT:** Councillors G Stewart (Chair), R Butler, J Hunt, and S Kirve.

Clerk: Tony Skeggs

Residents: None.

<b>F20/41</b>	<b>APOLOGIES</b> – Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs A Clark and P Wood.	
<b>F20/42</b>	<b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST</b> – Cllr Hunt declared an interest in item F20/47.	
<b>F20/43</b>	<b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b> The minutes of the Finance and Governance Committee meeting held on 13 <sup>th</sup> October 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and duly signed by the Chairman.	
<b>F20/44</b>	<b>2021/22 DRAFT BUDGET AND PRECEPT</b> a) The forecast budget for 2020/21 that showed a forecast reserve balance of £165,000 was <b>NOTED</b> . This was after discussion had focussed on the cost of the Neighbourhood Plan. It was <b>AGREED</b> that the funding and spend of the Neighbourhood Plan should be considered at the February 2021 meeting of the committee. b) The clerk presented the draft budget for 2021/22, which had been updated since the last meeting. The draft budget showed a small surplus of £8,060 based upon no change in the precept. Cllr Kirve considered it a prudent budget that took on known changes. It was proposed and seconded and unanimously <b>AGREED</b> that the draft budget of £157,940 be recommended to Full Council. c) The allocation of reserves was reviewed and <b>AGREED</b> . d) The chairman presented a paper that showed the Council Tax Band D figure for 2021/22 was 2,646.51, an increase of 97.89. The paper had a table that showed a range of options from 0% to 5% and what each percentage would generate in precept and what the Band D Council Tax would be. After discussion, a proposal was made by Cllr Stewart, seconded by Cllr Kirve, to recommend to Full Council a Council Tax Base increase of 0% and a precept of £172,350. The reasoning was that the precept had increased via the higher tax base and that the consequences of the covid-19 pandemic had to be considered on the residents. This was <b>AGREED</b> by 3 in favour and 1 against. It was <b>NOTED</b> that there would probably need to be increases in future years.	
<b>F20/45</b>	<b>HS2 COMMUNITY FUND</b> Cllr Hunt presented information on the HS2 Community and Business Fund, which is available for local organisations to fund projects that they may have. Other parishes and communities were making use of it but so far nobody from Stoke Mandeville had benefitted. It was <b>AGREED</b> to promote the fund to organisations around the parish and for the parish council to consider possible projects that could benefit from this and other areas of funding.	Clerk
<b>F20/46</b>	<b>COUNCIL POLICIES</b> The chairman presented four policies, Additional Hours Worked, Health & Safety, Pre-Application Meeting with Developers, and Reserves, that he had updated. Only minor changes, updating to current arrangements, had been made to all four. Cllr Hunt asked why the planning and staffing policies had not gone to the relevant committees for review and suggested that in the future they go to the relevant committee first. As there were no further comments, all four policies would be presented to the next Council meeting.	



<b>F20/47</b>	<b>STOKE MANDEVILLE VILLAGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION</b> The unaudited accounts for the association were reviewed and <b>NOTED</b> . It was noted that there was a high level of cash balances and it was questioned as to whether the association had a use for them or not. As these accounts were year ended 28 <sup>th</sup> February, which was just before the lockdown, the accounts ending in February 2021 might show a very different position.	
<b>F20/48</b>	<b>POINTS OF INFORMATION</b> Cllr Kirve raised the issue of the pathway from the hospital to the combined school and how it could do with smartening up. He would be presenting his ideas to the Communities committee in January.	
<b>F20/49</b>	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b> The next meeting was on the 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2021.	

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021

#### Action List

Date	Minute	Action	By Whom	Situation
11 Feb 20	20/04	Review of parish council policies.	Cllr Stewart	In Progress
9 June 20	20/19b	Prepare asset location maps for councillors.	Clerk	In Progress
18 Aug 20	20/27	Cllr Clark to supply Neighbourhood Plan information for risk register.	Cllr Clark	O/S
17 Dec 20	20/45	Promote the HS2 Community Fund in the parish.	Clerk	In Progress