

Minutes of an emergency meeting of West Crewkerne Parish Council held at Clapton & Wayford Village Hall on Monday 28th January 2013.

Present:- Mrs J Borland (Chairman), Mr J Wyatt, Mr F Broom, Mr H Ploszek, Mrs S Swaffield, Mr S Wetherall and Mrs A Ploszek, co-opted to take the Minutes. There were 3 members of the public.

Apologies:- The Clerk Mr C D Payne

Public Open Forum:-
No comments

Declarations of Interest:-

Precept: As the Localism Act 2011 failed to exempt Councillors with Pecuniary Interest in deciding the local precept, the Chairman explained that the Monitoring Officer had granted special dispensation to the Council

Finance:- All the councillors had read the Government's Council Tax Reduction Scheme. The Chairman and Mr Ploszek attended a meeting with SSDC Finance Department on 22nd January 2013, at which this scheme was fully explained, and figures provided for:

- a) Taking no action to increase Precept – an effective loss of £275, resulting in actual receipt of £4,725
- b) Raise precept to £5275 resulting in actual receipt of £5,000. Equates to D-band Increase £1.60 or 7.05%
- c) Raise precept to £5775 resulting in actual receipt of £5,500 Equates to D-band Increase £4.03 or 17.8%
- d) Raise precept to £6275 resulting in actual receipt of £6,000 Equates to D-band Increase £6.45 or 28.5%

It was agreed that taking no action would be foolhardy. Therefore the precept should be increased as future government grants may be reduced to nothing over a period. Also precept capping increases may be introduced, thereby reducing West Crewkerne Parish Council's working capital. After discussion Mr Ploszek proposed that option c) be adopted. Mr Broom seconded the motion, and it was carried to request SSDC to increase the WCPC's Precept we receive from them, from £5,000 to £5,775 (adjusted to initial receipt from SSDC of £5,500) making it equivalent to an increase in D-Band council tax of £4.03 per household per annum (Precept 12/13, equivalent Band D charge £22.68 – estimated 13/14 @ £26.71, for the West Crewkerne households only).

The next meeting was arranged for Tuesday 12th March 2013 at Clapton & Wayford Village Hall at 7.00 pm.

The meeting closed at 7.20 pm.