

# Stowe By Chartley Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Stowe by Chartley Parish Council held on 29th January 2019 in Stowe by Chartley Village Hall.

Present: Cllr. B. Mackellar  
Cllr. G. Meddings  
Cllr. C. Welch

Also in attendance. Two residents and J. Blount. Clerk/RFO.

Cllr. Mrs. Beatty and Cllr. J. Francis sent their apologies.

## **Public participation.**

Questions were asked about how duplication was avoided in housing need survey returns made on line and what items of expenditure had not been budgeted for in 2018/19. There was a request for more detail in the published budget.

In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair Cllr. Meddings was elected to Chair the meeting.

Cllr. Meddings said that he regretted the resignation of Mrs. Susan Grimes from the Council. He said that over a number of years Mrs. Grimes had used her extensive knowledge of the parish to make contributions to the work of the Council and had often provided voluntary labour for the benefit of Stowe residents.

## **21/19. Apologies.**

Apologies were received from Cllr. Mrs. Hurdle and Cllr. Mrs. Finney.

Resolved to accept the apologies.

## **22/19. Declarations of Interest.**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **23/19. Written applications for dispensations under the Localism Act 2011.**

There were no applications.

## **24/19. Minutes of the meeting held on on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2019 in Stowe by Chartley Village Hall.**

Resolved that the Minutes be accepted as a true record.

## **25/19. 2019/20 Budget.**

The RFO recommended raising the precept in order to provide an Asset Replacement Fund of £17,000 by March 2022. This was not accepted by the Council.

Resolved that the Council would accept the RFO's budget estimates with the exception of:  
The allocation of £25 for 'other subscriptions' to be discarded,  
The £2,200 provision for election cost be reduced to £550,  
The £400 allocation towards environmental maintenance costs to be reduced to £200,  
The zero provision for Defibrillator maintenance to be increased to £37,  
The allocation for footpath maintenance to be reduced from £300 to £200,  
The allocation of £150 towards Smart Alert to be removed and provision be included for Parish Meeting attention to this issue,

The Best Kept Village provision to be reduced from £100 to £50,  
 The Freedom of the Parish provision to be raised from £80 to £100,  
 Confirmed a contingency of £370,  
 The Civic Amenity visits to be confirmed as 3 x 1 hour visits,  
 Provision be made for a contribution of 2% of expenditure in 2019/20 towards an Asset Replacement Fund.

<b>Stowe by Chartley Budget 2019/20</b>	<b>£</b>
Total Income	12793
Expenditure	
General administration	7515
Members' Expenses	285
Agency Services	1330
Concurrent	1062
Other Non-administration	1080
Free resource	210
Publicity	718
Total expenditure	12200

**26/19. 2019/20 precept.**

Noted that Stafford Borough Council will add the £197.95 government support grant to the Council's precept.

Resolved to precept £12,105 for 2019/20.

**27/19. Investment Strategy and Policy (Fin Reg 8.5).**

The RFO advised that the level of funds available for investment in 2019/20 were unlikely to meet the minimum figure for an investment account.

Resolved that Council funds be kept in the Unity Trust current account.

**28/19. Date of next meeting. 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 7.30pm**