

**Minutes of a Meeting of Middleham Town Council held in the Richard III Room at Middleham Key Centre on Wednesday 15 December 2021 at 6.30 pm. (SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT NEXT COUNCIL MEETING)**

**Present**

Chairman Cllr Mrs S Fairhurst, Cllr Mrs H Byford, Cllr Mr N Hopper, Cllr Mr S Mashford.

Clerk Mr D Keep.

**Action**

**1. Introduction and Apologies.**

The Chairman declared the meeting open.

Apologies were received from Cllr Mr G Fortune (unwell), Cllr Mrs L Skelton (family commitments). Cllr Mr S Wheeler was absent.

**2. Open Forum.**

No public or press were present.

**3. Declarations of interest regarding items on the agenda.**

No further interests other than those previously notified were declared in matters on the agenda.

**4. Confidential and Urgent Items.** Following receipt of an email from a resident / business proprietor alleging lack of actions undertaken by unnamed councillors and recent telephone comments made to the Clerk, by the same individual and another resident / business proprietor, there was discussion regarding councillors' obligations to support residents raising issues with other authorities, particularly when these related to businesses. It was agreed that, as the Clerk had spoken by phone to both, no further response would be made, although it was felt that some of the criticism reflected unreasonable expectations and were unfair.

Regarding the specific issues underlying the comments, it was reported that Yorkshire Water had attended to the effluent leak behind Central Stores and that Area 1's local highways manager had now looked at the blocked highways drain. Council considered that Area 1's response to the Back Lane traffic issues had been prompt and satisfactory. The Clerk would remind NYCC that the area drains map was required and request a similar map from Yorkshire Water

**Clerk**

Cllr Byford would check whether a mattress dumped on the Wastes had been removed. Council could look into arranging removal if required.

**Cllr Byford**

**5. Finance – Information/Decision required**

**5.1 Budget / Precept for 2022-23.** An updated draft budget and commentary setting out underlying assumptions, reflecting expected financial activity for the following year had been circulated by the Clerk. Printed copies of the draft income and expenditure statements were reviewed on a line-by-line basis. Some adjustments were made, significantly reducing the projected budget deficit. A small increase in the precept, which had last been raised in 2019, of 2% was deemed appropriate as Council's own costs were anticipated to rise by 2% over the following year, in line with RDC's own assumption for inflation.

Subject to a final check after the meeting of the spreadsheet by the Clerk following above discussion, the adjustments agreed **It Was Resolved to approve the draft**

**Action**

**budget, amended as discussed and to set a precept of £12,250 for 2022-23.**

A copy of the budget will be attached to and form part of these minutes.

**6. Future Meetings**

**The next monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday 9 February 2022.**

**There being no further business the declared the meeting closed at 8.28 pm**

**Signed.....Date.....**