

**KING'S SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL
FINANCE GOVERNANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD
AT 7.30 P.M. ON THURSDAY 14TH DECEMBER 2017
IN THE KING'S SUTTON MILLENNIUM MEMORIAL HALL**

PRESENT: Councillors R Irving (Chairman), R Burrell, J Creed, T Forde, R Sykes

ABSENT: No Absentees.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs A Le Druillenec (Clerk)

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT:

The Openness of Local Government Public Bodies Regulations 2014:

No Members of the Public were present and the Chairman did not make the Announcement.

FGP: 79.17/18 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES AND APPROVE THE REASONS FOR ABSENCE:

None.

FGP: 80.17/18 TO RECEIVE REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS:

None.

FGP: 81.17/18 TO INVITE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None.

FGP: 82.17/18 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

None.

FGP: 83.17/18 BUDGET 2018/2019:

A. To Recommend a draft Payments Budget for 2018/2019:

(Revised Draft presented to the Meeting)

The Chairman spoke to the following Budget Categories:

3.1: Grasscutting of Village Amenities/Highway Verges:

Includes 2 cuts @ £75 per cut for strimming up to the hedge on Banbury Lane either side of Halestrap Way.

4.3: Cemetery Water Rates: £100.

(Based on information from allotments usage and local Cemetery)

5 (old): Tree Management: Combined with 12.1 Tree Works.

5 (new): Churchyard: £1,500

Grasscutting estimated @ £150 per cut; 10 cuts budgeted for.

11.1: Clerk's Gross Salary: £15,400

2% National Pay Award

11.9: S106: £1,175

Represents the balance remaining after all allocations made but excluding extra costs of Loop system for the KSMMH.

13.2: Banner Road Safety: No budget at this stage.

NCC administers the fund on behalf of the Parish Council.

Agreed: To bring a recommendation to the next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council to be held on 4th January 2018.

Action: Cllrs Burrell and Sykes

Total Draft Payments Budget 2018-2019: £72,548.

RESOLVED:

It was proposed by Cllr Burrell and seconded by Cllr Sykes to Recommend a Payments Budget 2018-2019 of £72,548 to the next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council to be held on 4th January 2018. (excluding budget for Road Safety)

B. To Recommend a draft Receipts Budget for 2018/2019:

(Revised Draft presented to the Meeting)

It was **Noted** that £1,175 had been included in Category 8.5: S106.

Total Draft Receipts Budget 2018-2019: £7,898.

RESOLVED:

It was proposed by Cllr Creed and seconded by Cllr Forde to Recommend a Receipts Budget 2018-2019 of £7,898 to the next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council to be held on 4th January 2018. (excluding budget for Road Safety)

FGP: 84.17/18

PRECEPT 2018/2019:

A. To Note the estimated Tax Base for 2018-2019:

(Subject to confirmation by the SNC Cabinet on 15th January 2018.)

Council Tax Base for King's Sutton for 2017-2018: 828.9

Council Tax Base for King's Sutton for 2018-2019: 842.6, an increase of 16%.

Noted.

B. To Recommend the Precept for 2018/2019:

(Paper presented to the Meeting)

The difference between the Payments and Receipts Budgets was the Precept figure.

Payments Budget: £72,548

Receipts Budget: £7,898

Precept: £64,650

Dividing the Precept by the Tax Base would give the Council Tax for a Band D property.

$£64,650 \div 842.6 = £76.73$, a 6.5% increase on 2017-2018 (£72.05).

B.1 The Churchyard: An exceptional expenditure for 2018-2019.

£1,500 for grasscutting was included in the Budget 2018-2019.

Excluding this category from the Budget 2018-2019 would have given a Precept of £63,150 - an increase of 4.02%, which was 0.02% less than the increase in 2017-2018.

There were potential additional costs associated with the care and maintenance of churchyard trees, walls, paths, gates etc that the Parish Council may be required to absorb.

The Committee considered the budget implications on the Precept:

i) A 6.5% increase in the Precept was needed to pay for the cost of the churchyard and to ensure that Payments and Receipts were more or less equal.

ii) Consumer Price Index had gone up by 4%. Would it be possible to use General Reserves to bring down the Precept to represent an increase of 2%?

iii) Potential churchyard costs were unknown quantities and included trees, headstones, walls etc. Adequate Reserves were required to cover these liabilities.

iv) Principal Authorities were capped and the likelihood was that there would be an attempt to push more expenditure over to Parish Councils.

Proposal: Proposer: Cllr Burrell No Seconder

Taking account of all potential additional costs identified by the FG&P Committee and ensuring that sufficient General Reserves remained in place, to use General Reserves to justify increasing the Precept for 2018-2019 by 2.5%.

The Committee considered that the Parish Council did not hold an excessive level of General Reserves.

RESOLVED:

It was proposed by Cllr Irving and seconded by Cllr Forde to Recommend a Precept of £64,650, noting that this was £4,930 more than 2017-2018 and an increase of 6.5%.

The RFO was thanked by the Committee for her work to prepare the Budget 2018-2019.

The Meeting ended at 8.10 p.m.