

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING OF KEMPSEY PARISH
COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, 28th JANUARY 2013 AT 7.30 p.m.
AT KEMPSEY COMMUNITY CENTRE**

PRESENT: - Cllr Bowley (Chairman), Cllr Gerrard, Cllr Hart, Cllr Campbell, Cllr Patrick, Cllr Stevens, Cllr Michael, Cllr Hay, Cllr Blackwell, Cllr Bannister, Cllr Martin, Cllr Geens & Cllr Rea.

IN ATTENDANCE: - Clerk and 6 members of the public

1. Apologies: None
2. Declaration of Interests:
 1. Register of Interests: Councillors were reminded of the need to update their register of interests.
 2. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI): None received
 3. Other Disclosable Interests (ODI): None received

The meeting was adjourned for Public Question Time, notes of which are appended to these minutes.

3. To Consider Written Requests from Councillors' for the Council to Grant a Dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011). Cllr Geens requested a Dispensation for the period 14.01.13 to May 2015 to allow him to participate in discussions relating to setting the annual precept and to participate in any vote in relation to this business. Members agreed to allow the Dispensation until May 2015
4. Having been previously circulated the minutes of The Parish Council Meeting held on
 - Monday 14th January 2013 were signed as a true and correct record.
5. The budget for 2013/14 was amended as follows:
 - F&GP Committee- Contingency of £5K was reduced to nil.
 - Recreation Committee - The Limes Maintenance and Improvements of £1600 was reduced to £1K (At this point Cllrs Rea, Stevens and Bannister declared an ODI due to residing on The Limes. They confirmed they would not be withdrawing from this meeting.)
 - Environment Committee - An additional heading titled Rocky Top-Up Works was included and £1260.56 was allocated for this purpose .
 - Commons & Hams Committee – Works to Kempsey Common were reduced from £5950 to £4950
 - The Council agreed the total expenditure for 2013/14 for £120K
6. The Council agreed to increase the precept for 2013/14 by 6%. This equates to a precept of £73528.00.
7. Cllr Hay withdrew his nomination to stand as a representative for the staffing committee in favour of Cllr Patrick. The Council agreed the appointment of Cllr Patrick.
8. A quotation from Wild Contracts for £900 was accepted to carry out work on the trees in the tree line and on one other in the southern Boundary at Plovers Rise playing field .
9. Payments of Accounts as per the distributed schedule were authorized.
10. Cllr Stevens explained the suggestion by LEADER for pre-approving payments. He requested feedback from Councillors on how they felt with this approach.

Meeting Closed at 8.43pm
Sharon Baxter
Clerk

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Before the commencement of any questions The Chairman reiterated that at no stage had The Council made any proposal to increase the precept by 13.9%. The first set of figures published was merely an indication.

If 13.9% increase did go ahead this would not be comparable with the state pension as the increase would only represent the portion from the Parish and not the whole element of the Council Tax.

Mr T Ward – Post Office Lane

1) There is a perception that employment costs are far too high as a percentage of the precept. Why have the number of hours worked and the cost risen so much? Is the increase in salaries justified at a time when public sector employees in general are capped at 1%?

The Chairman confirmed that employment costs had increased due to legislative changes resulting in extra workloads working within a large Parish. Employment costs have risen due to increased Pension payments and the demands of the job role. Parish Councils have their own salary pay structure and are not comparable to Civil Servants.

2) The level of commercial rents from the Nursery, the Hair Gallery and the hire of Room 1 appears too low. Have the rents been negotiated downwards (especially in view of the additional land now enclosed for the use of the Nursery)? Is the Parish Council in effect subsidising the commercial activities?

The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council is not subsidising Commercial Activities. They are looking to maximise and generate income from hiring Room 1. Legal advice has been obtained not to increase rents due to the economic climate. The Parish Council are satisfied in that they are obtaining the best revenue via allotment rents, energy suppliers and bank interest rates.

Mrs J Clee – Brookend Lane

Requested we consider a moderate increase in the precept with further consultation with parishioners.

The Chairman confirmed more feedback is required from parishioners to establish what they need/want..

In terms of distributing information this is already done via the Parish Office ,website and noticeboards to try and communicate and engage with the public.