

**MINUTES OF THE ST NEOT PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2019 IN THE
PAVILLION, ST NEOT**

Present: Councillors C Smith (Chairman), Dr L Jones, H Bunt and A Bellringer.

Sue Blaxley (Parish Clerk/RFO)

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7pm

1. Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 28th November 2018

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 28th November 2018 were agreed as an accurate record.

3. Draft Precept for 2020/2021

To discuss figures for the Precept for 2020/21

The Clerk produced figures detailing the end of year accounts for 2018/2019, the current year's Precept, the Income and Expenditure as at 31st October 2019 and an estimation of expenditure until 31st March 2020. She also produced figures detailing a draft proposal for the Precept for 2020/2021. The draft precept was considered and compared with the other information provided. In terms of income and expenditure, each item listed was discussed and the anticipated income and expenditure justified. Considerable discussion took place on the allocation of earmarked reserves to specific community projects. It was noted that inflation is currently 1.5% and that Cornwall Council propose to increase council tax by 4%. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor H Bunt that a formal recommendation to increase the precept by approximately 1% to £32,320 for 2020/21 would be made to members at the next full Parish Council meeting. Three councillors voted in favour of this proposal and one against. The proposal was therefore carried. As a result, it was noted that there will be a £4,830 surplus of expenditure against income which will come from the existing bank balance which is currently approximately £70,000.

4. Parish Council Rent Charges and Salaries

To review current Parish Council rent charges for the Pavillion, Goonzion Downs and Cott Yard and to review the expenses and salaries paid to the cleaner and clerk

It was noted that the Clerk is paid at spinal point 33 which will increase in

accordance with the NJC scales which are inflationary linked. It was noted that she is also paid administration expenses for the use of her home as an office at £25/month and for the use of her home telephone at £15/month. Councillor Dr L Jones said that she is working in consultation with the Clerk to draft a new contract of employment for the Clerk. It was agreed that the charge for the Pavillion at £10/session and the rent charged to the Post Office remain unaltered. It was noted that at the meeting of the parish council in June 2019, it had been agreed that the rent for Cott Yard remain unaltered (£5,755pa). It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor Dr L Jones that the rent charges for Goonzion Downs be increased by approximately 1.5% to the nearest 20p from January 2020, making Mr and Mrs Wilton's rent £124.50, Jane William's rent £25.10 and Adrian Copplestone's rent £12.50. It was noted that the cleaner is currently paid £9.00/hour for 5 hours/week. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor A Bellringer that this remains unaltered for the next financial year. Three councilors voted in favour of this proposal and one against. The proposal was therefore carried. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor Dr L Jones that formal recommendations as outlined in this minute are made to members at the next full Parish Council meeting. All councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

5. Date of next meeting

To be arranged

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:45pm.