

**MINUTES of a Finance Committee Meeting of Broughton Gifford Parish Council held on  
Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2021 in the village hall 7:30pm to review expenditure to date  
and set the budget for 2022/23**

**Present:** Cllr Hooper (Chair), and Cllrs Griffiths, and Johnson

**Budgets:**

To review next year's proposed budget 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 (appendix A)

- The Clerk talked the committee through the draft budget noting that the budget didn't include income from 'ecotricity' as expected as The Clerk had been told this project was currently on hold. Any income from the project would be seen as a bonus and budgeted as and when necessary.  
The Clerk also confirmed that it had previously been agreed to raise the precept by 10% for three years beginning in the 2019/20. (See min 214/18) So the agreed increase will see the council apply for a precept of £17,068.62.
- **Grants and subscriptions:** The committee discussed the funding available for both 'general' and 'major' grants. For 'Major' grants, the budget hasn't been touched this year, or the previous year. The Clerk asked the committee if they felt it was appropriate to allocate the funds. The committee felt it was important to hold the funding there so as to be able significantly support to the village groups should it ever be required. The committee were happy to leave the grant funds as they were.
- **Chairman's Allowance:** According to the Local Government Act 1972 15 (5) "A parish council may pay the chairman for the purpose of enabling him to meet the expenses of his office such allowance as the council think reasonable." Chairman Hooper felt he did not need to claim an allowance.
- **Play Area:** The committee agreed to leave £4,000 aside to finish off the play area. This will include removal of the spoils heap, AstroTurf, and posts to hang the 'welcome' board on.
- **The Stone Barn:** The committee allowed a budget of £100 for all the day-to-day costs of running the stone barn. The cost of utilities is covered by the Cricket Club, so £100 covers the maintenance which should be minimal going forward.
- **Highways Projects – Amounts:** There is £6,529 available in the S106 fund. This is available to spend on 'the improvement of open spaces'. The committee also agreed a budget of £12,460 for the Traffic Calming Scheme currently in progress.
- **Special Projects & requests from councillors:** The committee left a budget of £2000 for the restoration of the phone boxes.
- **Clerk's Salary:** Cllr Hooper reminded the clerk of the annual NALC increase, the clerk confirmed that she had accounted for that. While the unions are still negotiating the increase it is estimated to be less than 2%. The clerk has allowed for a 2% increase which totals £169.42. The clerk's annual increase was also due in October taking the hourly rate from £10.65 to £10.86. This has also been accounted for taking the total annual salary to £8641.00

**Reserves** – Were increased to £4,980 with £1,500 for elections and £1,073 held for the sport and youth fund.

Solar farm monies were allocated as follows:

	2021/22	2022/23
Major Grants and Projects Fund	2,000.00	2,000.00
Parish Project -New Play Area	4,952.66	4,23.31.00
Parish Project – The Stone Barn	37,750.00	39,750.00
Ponds and Trees	2000.00	2,000.00
Cemetery	1,000.00	1,000.00
Bus Shelter	2,827.00	2,827.00
Phone box renovations	2,000.00	2,000.00
Defibrillator costs	4,000.00	1,800.00
Highways – Traffic Calming		12,460.00
<b>Total Solar farm money</b>	<b>53,751.87</b>	<b>58,529.66</b>

#### Recommendations:

**Council Precept 2022/23: Recommended:** The Council Precept be increased by 5% from £15,536.98 to £16,292.13.

With no further business, the meeting closed at 8:05 pm

#### General notes:

##### Council Tax Base 2022/23:

It was noted that the tax base for an average Band D property for 2022/23 will slightly decrease on last year's amount of £356.68 to £356.19. The cost for a band D property based on the present £15,536.98 Precept was £43.56.

It had previously been agreed (2018/19) that a 10% increase for three years was needed, to cover maintenance costs that had risen over the past few years and to bring the Precept more in line with other local councils. The year 2021/22 was the third year of an increase.

**HOWEVER;** These increases have not seen the precept rise enough to cover the running costs of the council. The clerk suggests that there is an additional 10% increase for 2 more years and an annual increase of 3% (or in line with inflation) thereafter.

A 10% increase on £15,536.98 would bring the Precept up to £17,068.62 which would mean an average Band D property would pay £47.92, a rise in Council tax in an average household of £4.36 per month.

Year	Precept	% Increase	Band D	Monthly increase
2021/22	15,536.98	-	43.56	
2022/23	16,292.13	5	45.74	2.18
	17,068.62	10	47.92	4.36
2023/24	18,775.48	10	52.63	4.78
2024/25	19,338.74	3	54.22	4.93
2025/26	19,918.90	3	55.84	5.08
2026/27	20,516.46	3	57.52	5.23
2027/28	21,131.95	3	59.24	5.39