



Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 23rd January, 2013 at 7.30pm at The Old School House, Main Road, Danbury

Present: Cllrs S Berlyn (Chairman) B Kennewell
 M Wood (Vice Chairman) A Pemberton
 A Allen W Scaife
 Mrs A Chapman J Scott
 Mrs A Court M Telling
 Mrs C Jacobs
 A Keeler

In attendance: Clerk to the Council – Margaret Saunders

97 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Thomson.

98 Declarations of Interest

Members were reminded that they must declare any personal or prejudicial interests they had in any items of business on the meeting's agenda. They were reminded that they would need to repeat their declaration at the appropriate point in the meeting and leave the room if the interest was a prejudicial one. Unforeseen interests must similarly be declared at the appropriate time.

Members have a dispensation to discuss the Precept.

99 Precept for 2013 – 2014

The recalculation and resulting reduction of the tax base has been caused as a result of the replacement of the Council Tax Benefit by Local Council Tax Support. A grant has been given to Chelmsford City Council by the Government to compensate for the reduction in the taxbase. The Government has suggested that this is distributed between the City Council and the Parishes. This grant has a shortfall of £22,049. The Government has reduced the grant paid for the Local Council Tax Support by at least 10% and therefore people who are receiving Council Tax Benefit apart from pensioners will find a reduction in their support for Council Tax and an increase in their bills. Some District Councils had not given any of the grant to their parishes. Residents will have to pay more and subsequently it looks as if the Parish Council has put up the Precept more than the 1.9%.as agreed by Parish Council.

It was muted that to help the situation that the City Council should look at their large spending costs to cover the shortfall in grant received from the Government also that the method of calculation regarding Band D properties was flawed. This method is used throughout the country. It was also felt useful to request what the other Bands would pay. Members wished this item put onto the March, 2013 agenda for discussion.

The Parish Council had been alerted that there may be some difficult decisions for the Parish Council to make in the next year of budgeting. The Government is seriously considering that the Parishes will be subject to a local referendum for more than a 2% increase in the Precept. Regulations that have to be implemented have not yet been published.

There would be no leaflets this year to households explaining the Council Tax this will only be available on the City Council's website. This was strongly opposed by the group attending the Council training on the subject.

Cllr Telling arrive during this item.

Members ratified the Precept for 2013 – 2014 in the sum of £186,450 subject to the meeting to be held on 23rd January, 2013 adopting the preferred option as presented by Officers to Chelmsford City Council which in this financial year makes no changes to the Precept Request for Danbury Parish Council. This was proposed by Cllr M Wood and seconded by Cllr Pemberton and unanimously agreed.

Sue Lees arrived to give a presentation for the Resources Committee.

RESOLVED: a) that the Precept Request for Danbury Parish Council for the financial year 2013 – 2014 be £186,450 subject to the Officers proposal being ratified by Chelmsford City Council.
b) this item be put on a future agenda for discussion in March 2013.

(Subsequent to this Parish Council Meeting the Clerk has ascertained that the formula as put to the training session on 10th January, 2013 has been agreed by the City Council at their Full Council Meeting held on 23rd January, 2013).

Business having been concluded, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.05p.m

Signed: Cllr S Berlyn, Chairman

Date: