

**NOTTH HORSHAM PARISH COUNCIL  
THURSDAY 9<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2014 AT 7.30pm  
AT ROFFEY MILLENNIUM HALL**

**CLERK'S REPORT**

**6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members are advised to consider the agenda for the meeting and determine in advance if they may have a Personal, Prejudicial or a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any of the agenda items. If a Member decides they do have a declarable interest, they are reminded that the interest and the nature of the interest must be declared at the commencement of the consideration of the agenda item; or when the interest becomes apparent to them. Details of the interest will be minuted.

Where you have a Prejudicial Interest (which is not a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest), Members are reminded that they must now withdraw from the meeting chamber after making representations or asking questions.

If the interest is a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, Members are reminded that they must take no part in the discussions of the item at all; or participate in any voting; and must withdraw from the meeting chamber; unless they have received a dispensation.

**7. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

At the time of writing the Report, there are no Chairman's Announcements

**8. COMMITTEE AND CONSOLIDATED BUDGET – 2014/2015 – second draft**

Members have previously been circulated with the Budget papers.

Members are advised that whilst there have been a number of small changes to individual Committee Budget expenditure figures, with the exception of the Planning, Environment and Transport Committee.

These changes follow the announcement of Horsham District Council (HDC) of the Tax Base for the Parish (8230.7) and the level of Council Tax Benefit Grant (CTBG of £16,682) to be awarded.

As a result of this announcement, further changes were made to the Reserves and Precept sheets.

To remind Members, prior to April 2013 the cost of Council Tax Benefit is refunded to District Councils fully, at 100%. From April 2013, under the Local Government Finance Act 2012, each Council Tax billing authority is required to produce its own localised scheme; and in future the CTGB will be limited to 90% of the current level.

The original proposal was that the balance of 10% would be met by each tier of local government (including Parish Councils) in proportion to its share of the overall Council Tax, as the Council tax base would be reduced. Representations by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and others was that the parish tax base should not be adjusted in this way, ensuring there would be no cost to parish councils from the changes to Council Tax benefit funding. Despite support for this proposal from a majority who responded to the consultation, the government has reverted to the original proposals.

The reduction in the Tax Base is offset by a government grant which will meet up to 90% of the cost and the District Council will consider a recommendation to share the Parish element of the grant (which will be paid to the district) pro rata to each Parish's loss.

There is still no change to the way that Parish Tax Bases are calculated – being calculated at a point in time and based on, among other things, the numbers of properties built or demolished, Band changes on appear, the numbers of exemptions for empty properties and single person occupancy discounts.

The Tax Base for North Horsham for 2014/2015 is shown on the Precept Sheet, together with that for other years, for comparison purposes. Based on the confirmed Tax Base, the Parish Council's share of the CTBG is shown, as income and will be paid at the same time as the Precept.

For precepting purposes, the Precept is the required amount less the allocated share of the CTBG.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**Members are asked to approve the Council and Committee Budgets for 2014/2015**

### **9. PARISH PRECEPT for 2014/2015**

Members are asked to note that the final confirmation of the Tax Base and level of CTBG to be awarded to the Parish was confirmed at a meeting of HDC on 11<sup>th</sup> December.

The Finance and Administration Committee meeting resolved to make a Recommendation to Council to approve an increase in the Precept requirement of 0.91%. Despite the reduction in the Tax Base, this has been achieved, with a Precept requirement based on the Consolidated Council Budget of £271,392.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Parish Council's Precept for the financial year 2014/2015 be set at £271,392, representing a 0.91% increase**

**10. SALE OF LAND AT NORTH HEATH HALL**

Members are advised that this agenda item is linked to the Guest Speakers at the beginning of the meeting.

On an initial perusal of the Parish Council's documentation it would appear that there may be a pre-emption clause, on which legal advice would need to be sought.

Members are advised that a formal proposal from Care UK should be submitted to the Parish Council for consideration; and, at the same time, an undertaking obtained that Care UK pay any legal costs incurred by the Parish Council, in this regard.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**Members' views are sought**

**11. DEVELOPMENT NORTH OF THE A264**

Members are advised that a further Report on this issue will be circulated prior to the meeting.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**Members are asked to note the Report**

**12. 'THINK SOUTH HOLMES – THINK FAMILY' PROJECT**

Members are invited to consider the Report of the Committee Clerk, who attended the meeting as described below, as follows -

“Think Family’ is a West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) initiative, which relates to the Government’s ‘Helping Troubled Families Turn Their Lives Around’ policy. There was a meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> December, which was the third of its kind for the South Holmes area in particular, and included representatives from Sussex Police, Horsham District Safety Partnership and the L & Q Housing Association.

The initiative aims to target problems such as crime, education and worklessness in vulnerable families across the County. Early ideas being discussed include the possibility of a Sussex Police drop in clinic, together with health and well-being clinics, at the L & Q offices; the installation of noticeboards to help residents discover activities in the wider community; and delivery of a survey followed by a visit to each dwelling, to encourage resident engagement on the issues that matter to them.

Among the ways in which the Parish Council can participate in the project is including information on the scheme in the Parish newsletter; providing the use of Roffey Millennium Hall for when the results of the residents' survey are collated and displayed; and grants from the Parish Council if needed, e.g. for the provision of noticeboards on the estate"

There will be a follow up meeting of the group in the New Year, which will be attended by the Committee Clerk

**RECOMMENDATION**

**Members are asked to note the Report**

**13. COUNCIL MEETING DIARY – MAY 2014 to APRIL 2015**

Members will find enclosed a draft Meeting Diary for meetings of Council, Committees and Community and Working Groups; from May 2014 to April 2015.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Meeting Diary is approved**

**14. ANNUAL MEETING OF ELECTORS OF THE PARISH**

This statutory meeting is to be held on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2014 at North Heath Hall. At this stage, Members are invited to consider who they may wish to invite to act as a speaker for the evening

**RECOMMENDATION**

**Members' views are sought**

**15. REPORTS REGARDING OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS**

At the time of writing the Report, there are no advance Reports

**RECOMMENDATION**

**Members are asked to note this section of the Report**

**16. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS**

The schedule of accounts for payment will be tabled at the meeting

**RECOMMENDATION**

**That the payment of accounts is approved**

**17. DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING**

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2014

Sue Kemp – Parish Clerk  
20<sup>th</sup> December 2013