

FELSTED PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 12th January 2022 at 6.00 pm by Zoom video conference.

Present Councillors Roy Ramm (Chair), Frances Marshall, John Moore and Richard Silcock.

F22/01 **Apologies for absence and declarations of interest**

There were no Apologies or Declarations of Interest.

F22/02 **Approval of Minutes of the meeting held on 24th November 2021**

The Minutes of the meeting were approved. They will be signed by the Chairman when the committee next meets in person.

F22/03 **Matters arising from the previous Minutes (not covered elsewhere on this Agenda)**

There were no matters arising from the previous Minutes.

F22/04 **Final Consideration of 2022-23 Budget and Precept for proposal to Full Council**

The committee discussed the proposed budget presented by the RFO (see page 2). It was noted that the only changes to the budget presented at the previous Finance Committee meeting were an additional £2,000 included in the Projects budget line for a top up of the playbark at the playing field playground and an increase of £15,516 in the Salary and Expenses line to reflect the increased hours for the Clerk and Assistant Clerk approved at the Full Council Meeting of 1st December 2021 (21/276).

It was noted that a Precept of £106,000 would lead to a £5,400 deficit for the coming financial year however this included 2 one off projects totalling £8,000 (£6,000 for internal repairs to the Pavilion and £2,000 for consultant advice regarding the new doctors surgery) and that without these one off costs the budget would actually show a surplus of £2,600.

Cllr Frances Marshall noted that an increase in the budget was unavoidable given the extra costs the council had taken on, including maintenance of the Churchyard which had seen considerable expense in the current year.

Cllr John Moore stated that he was unhappy paying for consultant's fees for the doctor's surgery when there would not be any corresponding income for 2-3 years. Cllr Roy Ramm noted that although the budget contained provision for further consultant's fees the consultant was currently not being used as there was no progress on the sale of the Bury Farm site and the draft agreement so far produced looked good. However it was noted that once the sale of the site commenced there would likely be further expense to ensure that the final agreement between the parties was concluded properly otherwise it may be detrimental to the parish in the future.

Cllr Roy Ramm also noted that it was important to begin to rebuild reserves and further that as new houses were built this would lead to additional precept income for the parish in future but this would not occur until the houses were completed and would need to be considered at that time.

Cllr Richard Silcock noted that it was also important to ensure that the Precept was benchmarked against other local Parishes. The RFO stated that a Precept of £106,000 would equate to a Band D Property Precept of £77.27 (see page 2) compared to 2021-22 Band D Property Precepts of £60 for Flitch Green, £86.32 for Little Dunmow and £72.01 for Stebbing.

It was unanimously agreed that the budget as presented and a Precept of £106,000 be presented to the Full Council meeting as the recommendation of the Finance Committee.

F22/05 **Review of conduct of future finance committee meetings**

It was agreed by majority of the committee that the coming Finance Committee meeting due on 23rd February 2022 would be held by Zoom and that the intention of the committee was to have face to face meetings going forward from the 4th May meeting should circumstances allow.

F22/06 **Any urgent matters and proposals for future agenda items**

None.

F22/07

Next meeting

The meeting closed at 6.20pm.

The next meeting will be held on 23rd February 2022 at 5pm by Zoom.

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Chairman

Dated

F22/04 – Recommended 2022-23 Budget and Precept and Precept for Band D Property**Felsted Parish Council - Recommended 2022-2023 Budget**

		Actual 2020-21	Estimated 2021-22 Year End	Recommended Budget 2022-23
Opening Balance		132,358	99,183	62,459
RECEIPTS				
	Precept	77,000	85,000	106,000
	Allotments Rents	1,588	1,700	1,700
	Playing field rent	-105	250	500
	Grants	8,178	0	0
	Sundry other receipts	915	1,215	0
	Magazine advertising & donations	5,680	2,800	4,516
Total Receipts		93,256	90,965	112,716
PAYMENTS				
	Salary and Expenses	31,236	33,490	48,598
	Street Lighting	4,689	4,795	5,453
	Administration	14,355	10,924	11,523
	Maintenance, repairs and upkeep	40,473	41,649	40,807
	Projects	30,518	32,859	6,958
	Sundry	5,160	3,973	4,762
Total Payments		126,431	127,689	118,101
Closing Balance - Accrual Basis		99,183	62,459	57,074
Notes:				
Precept increase of 24.71% on previous year's Budget				
Deficit includes £6,000 for Pavilion internal repairs and £2,000 for doctors surgery consultant works which will not be repeated.				
Budget would show a surplus of approx £2,600 excluding the above one off items.				

COUNCIL TAX BANDS								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Ratio to Band D	6/9	7/9	8/9	9/9	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9
2022/23	£51.51	£60.10	£68.68	£77.27	£94.44	£111.61	£128.78	£154.54
2021/22	£41.56	£48.49	£55.41	£62.34	£76.19	£90.05	£103.90	£124.68
Increase/decrease(-)	£9.95	£11.61	£13.27	£14.93	£18.25	£21.56	£24.88	£29.86
Increase/decrease(-)	23.9%	23.9%	23.9%	23.9%	24.0%	23.9%	23.9%	23.9%
Please note there may be tiny changes in the percentages due to the CTax figures being rounded to 2 decimal places								

Comparison	2021/22	2022/23 Increase / decrease (-)
Taxbase (gross)	1,425.59	1,430.17 4.58
LCTS discounts *	-62.14	-58.44 3.70
Taxbase (net)	1,363.45	1,371.73 8.28
Precept	85,000.00	106,000.00 21,000.00
Band D Council Tax	62.34	77.27 14.93