NORTHAW & CUFFLEY PARISH COUNCIL

7 Maynard Place, Cuffley, Herts, EN6 4JA
Telephone: 01707 875825

NORTHAW & CUFFLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE PARISH OFFICE, MAYNARD PLACE, CUFFLEY EN6 4JA ON THURSDAY 11 JANUARY 2022, 7pm

Members in attendance	
Cllr C Burrows Cllr M Clark Cllr S Harden Cllr P Singleton	Cllr B Stubbs (Chairman) Cllr P Wagg Clerk to the Council, Ms L Chaplin
Other attendees Northaw & Cuffley Office Manager.	

21/22-58	**APOLOGIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS** Apologies were noted from Cllrs Knichel and Cheetham. Apologies were accepted for reason stated.
20/21-59	**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** No conflicts were noted but should any conflicts become apparent that they would be raised at the appropriate time in the agenda.
21/22-60	**QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC** There were no members of the public present however as Council had received some questions in advance of the meeting these were answered as follows: **How were by-election costs of £1,015 incurred in month 8?** *The bill received from Welwyn Hatfield noted total costs less VAT of the amount stated in your question and these costs included printing and stationery for polling information £34.10, postal vote kits £321.00, postal ballot papers £174.00, postage £404.72 and booking of the Returning Officer £81.52 with VAT was an invoice of £1,202.10.* **Where has the extra £18,606 been spent on the Northaw Play Area?** *The total costs on this item comprised of £16,197 installation of new path, inspection of play area £68.50, removal of fencing £1,980 reduction of branches £80.00, hedge reduction £50.00, relocation of bench and installation £380.00, clearance of wooded bramble area £350.00* **Where has the extra £10,215+ been spent on tree maintenance?** *This expenditure was spent in all areas and is the work as listed on the tree survey so happened in KGV, Northaw Playing Fields and Home Wood.* In the proposed Budget. **What is the KGV Masterplan costing £150,000?** *This amount is noted for the aspirations as noted in the Neighbourhood Plan. It will be utilised once monies from Lands Improvement have been received and allocated, it may well be that this amount is increased or decreased depending on Council decisions and ongoing project priorities.* **What is the justification for staff salaries to rise by 13%?** *The budget of £81,00 is incorrect and the outturn is likely to be closer to £93,000 for the current year based on this the 2022/23 budget has been increased to reflect this.* **Why is the KGV contract maintenance expected to rise by 46%?** *There has been a significant increase in expenditure largely as all costs are now consistently placed in the same cost centre and not hidden in other random places. So far the costs are £17,527 including Month 8 plus £651 diesel and further groundsman staff costs. These costs including income received will be reviewed by Council and recharging will be increased if required.*

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21/22-61	**BUDGET & PRECEPT 2022/23** **a) Budget 2022/23** **Members noted the budget as circulated. The following changes were made:** • Community grant funding – this has been set at £25,000 however there was only one application in financial year 2021/22. It was agreed to remove the budget line from the budget and place a discretionary fund of £5,000 within ear marked reserves for urgent community funding as required. • It was agreed to maintain the PCSO contract for 2022/23 with a funding line of £18,000 • Due to the ongoing challenges of new COVID variants the Neighbourhood Plan would now require funding in 2022/23 and a figure of £10,000 will be added to the budget for remaining works and referendum costs **b) Precept Decision 2022/23** Members noted the budget requirements for 2022/23 after reviewing the budget and discussed the income at length including the losses suffered as a result of COVID especially at Sopers Road Car Park. The budget for the coming financial year was noted to be £307,085 with current Precept income at £206,000 therefore, this would require use of the Council reserves and these reserves would be depleted if action was not taken. After some debate it was suggested that the Precept, having been maintained with no increase in the last financial year would need to be increased significantly. It was duly proposed, seconded, and unanimously **RESOLVED** to increase the Precept by 25%. **Motion carried.** This increase would bring in a Precept of £256,530 dependent on tax base. The RFO was instructed to complete the appropriate paperwork and demand the Precept of Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council by the 14th January 2022 deadline. The Chairman thanked all for their attendance and closed the meeting at 7.28pm

Meeting closed at 7.28pm
L Chaplin LCGI PSLCC CPFA CiLCA
Clerk to the Council
Drafted 14th January 2022
For approval by Council 3rd February 2022

Signed by Chairman
Councillor Bob Stubbs