

**Minutes of the meeting of the Budget Advisory Committee
of Dronfield Town Council held in the Council Chamber
on Monday 29th January 2024 at 9:15am**

Present: Cllr A. Foster (Chair), Cllr G. Hopkinson, Cllr K Tait and Cllr R Welton

In attendance: J. Mitchell (Town Clerk)

1. Apologies

Cllr J Yates sent their apologies.

2. Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interests.

3. Minutes

It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 8th January 2024 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

4. 2024 - 2025 Budget Planning

Cllr G Hopkinson joined the meeting at 9:20am.

The Clerk presented members with an updated draft budget for the financial year 2024 – 2025.

The Clerk explained that leasing equipment had been considered however over time it seemed to be more cost effective to purchase. Therefore, income streams had been revised and increased in some areas to reduce the required precept.

The Clerk explained that the main increases in expenditure were due to several factors which included staff costs - which are agreed at a national level, increased utility costs - following the end of fixed term contracts, property maintenance and equipment replacement - due to ageing assets and, professional fees - due to various matters.

It was RESOLVED to recommend to council that the budget for the financial year 2024-2025 is approved.

5. 2024 - 2025 Precept

Following the consensus of the committee to recommend a 14% increase, the Clerk reviewed the budget accordingly and presented members with the required precept for 2024-2025.

The Clerk confirmed this would equate to an average annual increase of £17.75 per Band D property.

It was RESOLVED to recommend to council that a precept of £999,315 is requested from North East Derbyshire District Council for the financial year 2024-2025.

6. Exclusion of the Press and the Public

It was RESOLVED that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted it is advisable in the public interest, that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.

7. Outstanding Debts

Members were given an update on the organisations with outstanding debts owing to the council.

It was RESOLVED to continue chasing the outstanding debts owed.

8. Date of next meeting

It was RESOLVED to hold the next Budget Advisory Committee meeting in April on a date to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 9:45am.