

Teffont Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Madeline Honeybourne

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Teffont Village Hall

**10th January 2023 at
18:00**

MEETING CONVENED: 18:00

Those present:

Parish Councillors: E. Worth (Chair). I. Johnson (Vice Chair) R. Blamey. T. Deane. J. Aspden. S.O'Donnell

Also in attendance: Councillor Wayman. M. Honeybourne (Parish Clerk). There were no members of the public present.

Questions and Statements.

No members of the public attended the meeting.

Report from Wiltshire Councillor- Bridget Wayman.

Councillor Wayman reminded the Council that Wiltshire Council are considering raising Council Tax by a sum varying between 5% - 7%.

Councillor Wayman informed the Council of notification from Wiltshire Council of their intention to charge councils for a proportion of election costs. The cost will be £1.70 per elector and the total sum will vary according to a contested or uncontested election. The cost is subject to change. The proposed charge for Teffont could be £390 for an uncontested election or £391 for a contested election. Councillor Wayman was unsure why the differential was so minimal and assumes it is because Teffont has few electors eligible to vote.

Councillor Wayman was aggrieved the announcement from WC has come after most Parish Councils have already set their precepts for 23/24 and she stated the announcement should have been made following the last election.

Councillor Wayman explained uncontested elections still warranted a charge as the nomination papers still had to be processed. She further explained that Parish Councils will be able to extend their payments to 2027 following the next election in 2025.

Councillor Wayman informed the Council that Parish Stewards are currently prioritising potholes following the inclement weather.

Councillor Wayman informed the Council that bus fares have been frozen to £2 per single journey until 31st March 2022. Further information can be found on Wiltshire Councils Cost of Living web page.

MEETING MINUTES

23.01.01	<p>Resolution to receive apologies for absence.</p> <p>No apology was received from Councillor Graham for her absence from the meeting.</p>
23.01.02	<p>Declarations of Interest/ Dispensations</p> <p>A) Declarations: None received</p> <p>B) Dispensations: None required</p>
23.01.03/04	<p>Finance Reports/ Current position.</p> <p>The Clerk has reconciled all accounts against the bank statements. The budgets are currently running an underspend. The accounts were verified by Councillor Johnson. The Clerk demonstrated the new accounting software. The new system is proving efficient and she will continue to use this system to manage the accounts. The Clerk presented an end of year forecast including future expenditure for the last quarter of the financial year to assist the next agenda item of precept setting for 23/24.</p> <p>Proposed: EW Seconded: IJ Carried: Unanimously</p> <p>Resolved: Council resolved to accept the accounts as a true and accurate record.</p>
23.01.05	<p>Precept Setting 23/24.</p> <p>The Clerk demonstrated to the Council the precept calculator sent by Wiltshire Council to assist with precept setting. This allows for differing percentage amounts to be input and generates a precept figure based on the tax base for Teffont.</p> <p>The Clerk explained, the Council needed to consider the future costs of elections. The Chair asked the Councillors for their individual opinions based on the current financial climate faced by the Country.</p> <p>All Councillors were agreed that no additional savings should be made in the next financial year as savings had been made during 22/23 to protect village assets. Reserve funds currently exceed £9k.</p> <p>The Council discussed the cost of elections and the inflation rate which will add an approximate 10% to 23/24 expenditure. A precept increase of 3.25% was considered as an appropriate sum. The Parish Council were not unanimous in adding 3.25% increase to the precept. The Chair asked for Councillors to vote. Councillors Deane and Blamey abstained from the precept vote.</p> <p>Proposed: IJ Seconded: JA Carried: By majority 4/2</p> <p>Resolved: Council resolved by a majority vote of 4/2 to increase the precept by 3.25% giving a precept of £9,161.66 for 2023/24. This is an increase of £1.79 for a Band D property.</p>
23.01.06	<p>Items for the next Agenda.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Light Pollution/ Cranborne Chase presentation • Highways Update • Parish Steward Update

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review of public meeting with Wessex Water.• Coronation Party for the Village 6th May 2023.• Emergency Pack for Village.• Teffont Design Guide• Dates for meetings 23/24
	Meeting Closed: 18:55
	Date of next meeting: 24th January 2023 Teffont Village Hall at 18:00 Note: The Village Hall is open for 30 minutes prior to the start of any public meeting for questions from any resident.