

LAUNTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting held on **Friday 17 January 2025** at 5.00pm in Launton Parish Hall

Councillors present: Mr Glyn Austin, Mr Andrew Briant (Vice-chairman, from 5.45pm), Mrs Jackie Hackett, Mr Simon Turner (Chairman) and Mrs Jaqueline Webber

In attendance: 1 member of the public

Apologies: None

1. To receive apologies for absence

No apologies had been received.

2. Requests for Dispensations, Declarations of Interest, Gifts and Hospitality

Nothing was declared.

3. To facilitate public participation with regard to items on the agenda

1 member of the public was in attendance and addressed the Council about item 5.b.

4. Consultations

a. East West Rail non-statutory consultation – to consider the consultation (closes 24 January)

The Council considered the consultation and **RESOLVED** to agree to respond objecting to the decision to close the London Road level crossing, which would greatly increase traffic problems in the area and particularly through Launton.

b. East West Rail scoping report consultation – to consider the consultation (closes 31 January)

The Council considered the consultation and **RESOLVED** to agree that, having responded to the non-statutory consultation above, a further response to the scoping report consultation would be superfluous.

5. Finance

a. Draft Budget – to consider the draft budget for 2025/26

The Acting Clerk presented the draft budget which the Council considered.

Following discussion, the Council **RESOLVED** to agree to a budget of £62,054 (increased from £54,944 the previous year) and an increase in the reserves from £65,479.78 to £88,204.78. The increase in the budget and reserves was again mostly due to the responsibilities of taking over the Parish Hall.

b. Precept – to consider and agree the setting of the Precept level for 2025/26

CDC had informed the Parish that the estimated Tax Base figure for the year 2025/26 would be 620.1 (previous year 619.9).

Having agreed the budget, and taken the Reserves and surplus into account, the Council considered the Precept request and **RESOLVED** to agree that it would remain the same as the

previous year: £51,592. The annual cost to a Band D household would be approximately £83.20 – a decrease of £0.03 over the year.

- c. **Invoices for payment** – to consider and approve invoices for payment itemised on the Payment Schedule
There were no further invoices to be paid.

6. Parish Hall Project

- a. **Roof replacement** – to consider quotations received

Having carefully assessed the risks involved, the Council **RESOLVED** to suspend Financial Regulation 11.1.b to allow it to proceed with replacing the roof on the basis of quotations rather than having to go through the full tender process, which would have taken too long to complete and would therefore have resulted in the loss of the £25,000 REPF grant (which must be used by 31 March 2025).

The Council then considered the quotations received and **RESOLVED** to agree to accept the quotation from Leofric Structures Ltd of £62,490 including VAT on the condition that the work was done within the timescale set by CDC to allow the REPF grant to be used for the project.

- b. **Match funding application** – to consider applying for a FoLPH grant to match-fund the REPF grant

The Council **RESOLVED** to agree to apply to Friends of Launton Parish Hall for the match-funding grant of £25,000 that is required for the REPF grant.

- c. **Section 106 application** – to consider applying for Section 106 funding

Having received a report from Councillor Webber that S.106 funding of £10,851.75 is available from CDC for the roof replacement project, the Council **RESOLVED** to agree to apply for this funding.

- d. **Village / Hall user consultation** – to consider running a consultation

The Advisory Working Group had drafted a new consultation survey of villagers and Hall users to inform priorities for improvements and provide evidence of community engagement and data about usage, which it recommended the Council publish. The Council **RESOLVED** to agree to pay the printing costs of £72.67 and host an online version of the questionnaire on its website.

- 7. **Items for information or next Agenda only** – all items for the next agenda to be submitted to the Clerk by Thursday 23 January

- 8. **Date of next meeting** – Thursday 6 February 2025 at 7.30pm in Launton Parish Hall.

The meeting closed at 6.54pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....