

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Thursday 21st January 2021, commencing 7.30 pm.

In response to Government measures prohibiting gatherings, announced on 23rd March 2020, this meeting was conducted remotely.

Present Mr I Lamont, Chairman. Mr J O'Mahony, Vice-Chairman.
Mr C Reeve, Mr T Sheppard, Mr B Panton, Mr M Chick.

Public Forum – no members of the public present.

Apologies for absence - Mrs Morrey

Resolve upon Lavenham's Precept requirement for 2021/2022

Babergh had already contacted all Parish Councils to advise that the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has meant that calculation of the tax base has been subject to a very high degree of uncertainty. Two key areas of concern that have reduced the estimated tax base are rising numbers of Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (LCTRS) reliefs and reduced collection rates.

The council tax base was recalculated in early January following the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement. The allocation of this grant to individual councils has been calculated in proportion to the reductions in the calculated tax base for each parish.

The Tax Base for the parish of Lavenham for 2021/22 has been calculated at 864.81, a reduction of 4.7% on last year's figure of £907.67. The share of the Government grant is £1,084.00.

These figures had been considered by the Finance Working Group at a meeting on 14th January and the recommendation following that meeting was that the Parish Council should aim for a Band D Council Tax amount of £91, an increase of 3.2%. This would produce a precept of £78,967, a total of £80,051 available with the addition of the £1,084 grant. The precept for 2020/21 had been £80,000.

After further discussion it was proposed by Mr Reeve, seconded by Mr Sheppard, that a Precept of £78,967 is required. Carried.

The Parish Precept form will be prepared by the Clerk, signed by the Chairman and Clerk, scanned and emailed to the District Council before 31st January.

Appoint Internal Auditor for 2021/22

Following Mr Corney's resignation as Internal Auditor enquiries had been made with Dave Crimmin who undertakes Internal Audits with Heelis & Lodge. A fee of £310 has been quoted for a year-end audit with drop off, and once completed, pick up the papers. This includes a report back to the Parish Council and completion of the Internal Audit Report section of the AGAR. Prop. by Mr O'Mahony, sec. Mr Sheppard, and agreed that Heelis & Lodge are appointed for one year when there will be a review.

Gas Works Site

Legal and professional fees have been included in the budget for the site and MLM Group have quoted £6,100 to produce and submit to the District Council the Construction Method and Site Management Statement required under Condition 3 of the planning permission. This will include any revisions necessary until it meets the requirements of the Condition. Proposed by Mr O'Mahony, seconded by Mr Panton and agreed that MLM be commissioned to produce the report.

The meeting closed at 7.55 pm.