

Little Bollington with Agden Community Council
COUNCIL MEETING - TUESDAY 9 JANUARY 2024, 6.00PM
At Little Bollington School
DRAFT AGENDA

1. Present and Apologies
2. Declaration of interests
3. Public participation
An opportunity for electors to address the Council
4. Minutes of last meeting P
5. Matters arising
6. Financial Report
 - Balance of bank account
 - Proposal to approve payments as follows:

Insurance premium	£150
Contribution to LB School	£150
Upkeep of graveyard	£500
Payment to Clerk	£575
7. Budget and Precept P
 - Proposed budget for 2024-25
 - Proposal for a precept of £4,000 for 2024-25
 - Precept explanation note for submission to CEC
8. Recruitment of new Clerk – progress report and next steps
9. Establishing LBACC - progress report and next steps
 - Approval of Explanatory Note to Residents re new Council
 - Plans for Meet your Councillors event at The Wheatsheaf Inn
 - Plans for communications with Agden residents
10. Flooding of areas of Little Bollington
11. Proposal for transfer of land around garages in Little Bollington
Update and next steps

12. M56 Services: Proposal for submitting a planning appeal

13. Community Infrastructure Levy - CEC request for report on investment of funds

14. Little Bollington Notice Board

15. Correspondence

16. Next meeting / future meetings

17. Other Business

NOTES ON AGENDA ITEMS

Item 6 Financial Report:

Proposal to approve payments as follows:

Insurance premium £150

Quotations were requested from two companies. One did not respond despite reminders being sent. Few if any other insurance companies offer this service. It is therefore proposed to accept the quotation of £150 from Zurich Insurance.

Contribution to LB School £150

Little Bollington School has requested support with its end of year fundraising. It is proposed to make a contribution to school funds of £150. The new Council has held seven meetings at the school for which no charge has been levied. The normal charge for these meetings would be about £250.

Upkeep of graveyard £500

The former Parish Meetings of Little Bollington and Agden each contributed £250 per year to the upkeep of the graveyard at Holy Trinity Church. It is proposed that the new Council make the same payments this year.

Payment to Clerk £575

The former Parish Meetings of Little Bollington and Agden each made a small payment in lieu of salary for the services of the Clerk. The annual payments were £175 and £400. It is proposed to make similar payments to the Clerk for his services this financial year. The Clerk has undertaken 10-30 hours work per month during the busy period of settling in the new Council. The cost of this at the minimum annual wage would be well over £2,000.

Item 7 Budget and precept

The proposed budget is set out in a separate paper. The budget has been prepared following detailed discussions on the level of expenditure required for every budget item. The budget shows a total expenditure of £4,000. This includes a salary of £1,800 for the Clerk. It allows a small amount of expenditure on the two villages.

It is proposed to set a precept of £4,000 to balance the above expenditure. This is an increase from the current precept of £1,900. The principle reason for the proposed increase is that the Governance review by Cheshire East Council (CEC) closed down the two Parish Meetings which were served by voluntary clerks, and created a new local council which will employ a salaried Clerk. This involves additional expenditure of £1,800 pa. While the additional costs and the increase in the precept are significant, it should be noted that the

current precept, inherited from the former Parish Meetings, is extremely low, probably one of the lowest in Cheshire East. Despite the increase, the new charge per property will remain at a low level. The range of charges will be £11 to £40 per property depending on the Council Tax band. Furthermore, the expenditure is justified in achieving CEC's objective of replacing local governance arrangements which were no longer viable with a new structure and form which will be sustainable and will serve the local communities into the long term future.