

MINUTES OF MEETING OF PETTAUGH PARISH COUNCIL HELD

17th JANUARY 2018 IN ST CATHERINE'S CHURCH AT 6.30 p.m.

Those present: Councillor Andy Corrigan (Chairman), Councillor Belinda Bulsing, and Councillor Gordon Janson. Mrs Margaret Marlow was Acting Clerk. Two parishioners were also present.

1. **Welcome by the Chairman.** The Chairman welcomed those attending the meeting.
2. **Apologies for Absence.** Apologies had been received from Councillor Stephen Rowe owing to his shift working and from Councillor Malcolm Owers.
3. **To receive Declarations of Interest.** There were no declarations of interest.
4. **To approve the Minutes of Parish Council Meeting – 1st November 2017.** Councillors voted to approve the minutes. The minutes were accepted and signed as a true record.
5. **Matters arising from the Minutes.** There were no matters arising from the minutes.

PUBLIC FORUM. A Parishioner asked whether the Parish Council were aware to the plans to erect 295 houses near the High School in Debenham.

6. **To discuss further and agree the proposed budget for 2018/19.** Following on from the last meeting Councillors were presented with amended budget figures. After discussion, the Councillors considered that the amended figures presented a logical and reasonable budget figure for the financial year commencing 1st April 2018. The budget figure of £1,770 was agreed and signed.

7. **To discuss and set the Parish Precept for 2018/19.** Councillors discussed the Parish Council's financial status during the coming year. The Parish Council spending for 2017/18 was well within the parish council resources. The Parish Council still has substantial funds which would cover any necessary contingency. Councillors discussed the current council balance of £3,380 in the two accounts and agreed that the Parish Council should use the money to promote village events during the summer months and seek to enhance the appearance of the village area around the notice-boards and village sign. Councillors decided that the precept for 2018/19 should remain at one thousand, seven hundred and fifty pounds (£1,750.00). The Precept Form was then completed and signed by the Chairman and Councillors in compliance with regulatory requirements.

8. **To receive a report by the Acting Clerk.** The Clerk reported on matters notified to the council since the November meeting. The Acting Clerk had received notification of changes to the external auditor appointments for the 2017/18 year. Since changes to the regulations the Parish Council falls under the Smaller Authorities Audit requirements. The Annual Return will now be known as the "Annual Governance and Accountability Return" and will need to be completed in accordance with "proper practices" as set out in 'Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England, a Practitioners Guide', and then be published in accordance with the applicable Transparency Codes. The auditors appointed for Suffolk are PKF Littlejohn LLP.

The General Data Protection Regulation Bill is currently going through Parliament, and is due to become law in May 2018. Further information has been forwarded from SALC including a summary of the main provisions. It is still uncertain how much it will affect the Parish Council and the steps that will need to be taken. A consultation document has been produced on the Local Government Finance Settlement. The

