

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF PETTAUGH PARISH COUNCIL HELD  
ON  
14th January 2020 IN ST CATHERINE'S CHURCH AT 6.30 p.m.**

Those present: Councillor Malcolm Owers (Chair), Councillor Belinda Bulsing and Councillor Esther Thornton.

1. **Apologies and note of Absences.** Apologies were received from Councillor Stephen Rowe and his absence was approved.
2. **To receive any Declarations of Interest, Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary.** There were no interests to be declared.
3. **To consider and agree the Minutes of Parish Council Meeting - 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019.** Councillors voted to accept the resolution to approve the Minutes. The Minutes were approved and signed as a true and correct record.
4. **Public participation session -** There were no issues raised by members of the public.
5. **Consideration of Planning Applications and Decision Notices - MSDC DC/19/05769 -** application for outline planning permission, land to the North of Gracechurch Street, Debenham. Following a detailed discussion the Councillors agreed to object to this planning application.
6. **Finance report -** The Councillors reviewed the latest financial information available and considered the most up to date balances. The Councillors also discussed the need to hold a sufficient amount in general reserve based on "The Good Councillor's Guide to Finance and Transparency 2018" page 17 "Reserves".
- 7 and 8. **To consider and agree precept rate for 2020-21 and To consider and agree budget 2020- 21 -** The Chair moved to take items 7 and 8 together. The Councillors reviewed and considered in detail different scenarios based on worked examples of Illustrations of Precept, Grant and Council Tax levels. The Councillors agreed that general reserves were needed to be set at a level taking into account the anticipated cost of clerking once the vacancy is filled and also other financial uncertainties. The Councillors considered the Note on Clerking Costs, two draft budget options in detail and agreed the budget for the financial year 2020-21, increasing the precept by 11 percent to allow a realistic figure for the anticipated clerking costs during the next financial year.
9. **To report on matter of a mirror on the highway opposite St Catherine's Church.** The Parish Council has been contacted by Suffolk County Council Highways

*M.L.O. 17/1/2020*