

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
Held at Bitteswell Village Hall on Wednesday 22nd May 2024 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillor John Allsopp (Chairman)
 Councillor Nigel Chapman
 Councillor Pippa Clarkson
 Clerk Cathy Walsh
 3 member(s) of the public.

24.1. Introduction and welcome from Chairman

Councillor Allsopp provided an introduction and welcome to the meeting.

The council would like to say that it appreciates all the hard work and efforts of residents who make Bitteswell a pleasant and enjoyable place to live. It extends its particular thanks to St Mary's Church and to St Mary's Primary School. We are also very fortunate to have two local charities supporting the village and its residents for which we are very thankful for.

24.2. To approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 23 May 2023

The minutes were approved as a true record of proceedings.

24.3. Questions and comments from residents

Precept

A resident asked the council to explain why Bitteswell with Bittesby Parish Council's precept is so high in comparison to other parishes in the District. Having not seen the data referenced, the Parish Council is unable to comment on this statement. However, it did explain the reasons for the council's precept requirement.

In previous years the precept set by the council was insufficient to cover its day-to-day operating costs and it had to borrow money from the capital funds (from the sale of the pumphouse) to cover this. As capital funds should not be used for revenue purposes, the council needs to consider how to address this. This is included on the agenda for the Annual Parish Council Meeting for discussion.

Previously the council did not hold any general or earmarked reserves and is now allocating funds to its reserves.

The generally accepted recommendation with regard to the appropriate minimum level of a smaller authority's general reserve is that this should be maintained at between three and twelve months of net revenue expenditure.

The smaller the authority, the closer the figure may be to 12 months expenditure. The council's current level of general reserves is £14,000.

The meeting was closed at 7.07pm

DRAFT

Approved & Signed:

Date: