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**Minutes of an electronic Special Meeting of East Bedlington Parish Council held via ZOOM
on Wednesday 27 January 2021**

PRESENT:

**Councillor Steve Aynsley
Councillor John Batey
Councillor Helen Bradford
Councillor Keith Scantlebury
Councillor Allan Stewart
Councillor Mike Trimming
Councillor Alex Wallace**

In attendance: Ron Thornton – Clerk, Jenny Tindale – Deputy Clerk,
2 members of the public

		ACTION
	<p>OPEN SESSION</p> <p>The Chairman opened the meeting and gave an overview of the Council's achievement during 2020/2021 and the background to decision making and priorities for 2021/2022. He referred to the devastating effects of the Covid 19 virus on our community and the Council's understanding of hardship endured by our residents. In particular he referred to the significant steps taken by both members and staff to support the Foodbanks within the Parish and offered his thanks for the combined effort.</p> <p>There were no issues raised by members of the public present.</p>	
CO160/20	<p>MINUTES OF THE BUDGET WORKING GROUP HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13 JANUARY 2021.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the minutes be agreed as a true record and that the recommendations therein be included in the final budget proposal.</p>	
CO161/20	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ASBSENCE</p> <p>Apologies were noted from Councillors Allan Douglas and Paul Hedley (illness), Lynda Mason (work commitments)</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>(i) That the Parish Councillors apologies be accepted.</p>	
CO162/20	<p>DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION</p> <p>There were no requests.</p>	

CO163/20	<p>ANNUAL BUDGET & PARISH PRECEPT 2021/2022</p> <p>Councillor Stewart thanked fellow Members and Officers for their contribution to the budget process and invited the Clerk to present his report which had been circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>The Clerk outlined each section of the budget and confirmed that Members had agreed not to raise the precept in the coming year. He explained the two-fold approach,</p> <p>1 To minimize non-essential spending to allow as much finding as possible to become available for Community Support to help address hardship experienced by residents.</p> <p>2.To identify and ring-fence reserves to ensure that funds are available to sustain the Councils assets, finance the Council's strategic priorities such as town centre redevelopment and to provide for emergency events such as those currently being experienced.</p> <p>RESOLVED: Members voted unanimously to approve,</p> <p>(i) The items of growth and budget reductions itemised in Appendix A & B</p> <p>(ii) The non-recurring and Capital expenditure itemised in Appendix C</p> <p>(iii) The detailed budget outlined in appendix F.</p> <p>(iv) The use of reserves to fund the budget deficit in the sum of Circa £7,400.</p> <p>(v) The earmarking of reserves outlined at Appendix E.</p> <p>(vi) The Parish Precept for 2021/2022 in the sum of £277,038 representing an unchanged Council tax of £138.00 for a band D property.</p>	Clerk
CO164/20	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>There was no other business.</p>	
C0165/20	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>A virtual Parish Council meeting to be held on Tuesday 2 February 2021 at 6pm.</p>	

Signed:

Date: