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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
**FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER  
ON THURSDAY 16 DECEMBER 2021 at 8:00 PM

Present: Cllr Cole – In the Chair  
Ryan Bennett – Clerk to the Council  
Amanda Gardiner - Administrative Officer

Present: Cllrs Benner, Hughes, Mitchell, Montague and Taylor

Voting Members: 6

Members of the Public: 0

**FA1596/21** **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received and approved from Cllr Gallagher who was representing CGPC at the TRDC Planning Committee meeting.

**FA1597/21** **Declaration of Interests**

Members were invited to declare interests as appropriate during the course of the meeting.

**FA1598/21** **Representations from the Public**

No representations were made.

**FA1599/21** **Minutes**

The Minutes under review for this meeting were those of Thursday 28 October 2021.

**Resolved:**

- That the Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 28 October 2021 are approved and signed by the Chairman.

**FA1600/21** **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

*[Under Standing Order 13.1.1.10 the following item was added to the Agenda:*

*FA1601/21 Return to Online Council Meetings]*

**FA1601/21** **Return to Online Council Meetings**

The Clerk introduced the paper on a return to online council meetings in January 2022, following the decision from the Government to move to 'Plan B measures'. The Clerk informed Members that the National Association of Local Councils and the Hertfordshire Association of Parish & Town Councils had both advised that councils should not meet during this period. Members commented that this would prohibit the work of the council and would have serious implications for residents as the Council would not be able to set a Budget for 2022/23. Members agreed that holding meetings online in January 2022 would benefit the safety and wellbeing of Councillors, staff, and Croxley Green residents.

It was proposed and agreed to add one additional resolution; "That Members note the decision is in contravention of s 99 and sch 12 of the Local Government Act 1972 but has been taken to allow the Council to continue to operate effectively and in the interests of local democracy and Croxley Green residents."

**Resolved:**

- That all Council meetings scheduled for January 2022 be held online only.
- That this be reviewed at the Council meeting on January 27, 2022.
- That Members note the decision is in contravention of s 99 and sch 12 of the Local Government Act 1972 but has been taken to allow the Council to continue to operate effectively and in the interests of local democracy and Croxley Green residents.

**FA1602/21**

**Monthly Accounts**

The Clerk took Members through the Management Accounts & Schedule of Payments for months 7 and 8.

**Resolved:**

- That the Management Accounts for Month 7 (October 2021) and Month 8 (November 2021) be approved and signed by the Chairman.
- That the Schedule of Payments for Month 7 (October 2021) and Month 8 (November 2021) be approved and signed by the Chairman.

**FA1603/21**

**Budget 2022/23**

Members reviewed the 2022/23 Budget. The Clerk informed councillors that the 2022/23 tax base for Croxley Green had been set at 5650.90. Using the figures from Draft Budget 4, this resulted in an average Band D council tax charge of £57.21, a 1.2% increase from the previous year.

The Clerk recommended that following the increase in the tax base, that councillors reduce the contribution to the budget from the council's reserves by £5000, resulting in an average Band 2 charge of £58.10, a 2.78% increase, a below inflation rise and a percentage increase in line with the majority of councils across the country.

**FA1604/21**

**Croxley Green Property Acquisition**

The Clerk gave a verbal update to Councillors on the process of applying for funding from the Public Works Loan Board.

**FA1605/21**

**Closure**

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.36 pm