

**Minutes of the Special Meeting of
PERTON PARISH COUNCIL
held at the Perton Civic Centre on
Wednesday 10th January 2007 @ 7:00pm**

Present A.K.James [Chairman]
Mrs. R. Heseltine [Vice Chairman]
Mrs P.Allen
Mrs. P.N. Pitt
A.A. Bourke
Mrs J.R.Williams
N.P.Caine
Mrs A.James
D.Billson

Members of the Public present : None
Journalists: None

182/07 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were offered and accepted from Mrs P.M.French, R.French, Mrs. P.C.Bromley and C.J.Bromley.

183/07 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

A.K.James, Mrs. R. Heseltine, Mrs P.Allen, Mrs. P.N. Pitt and Mrs J.R.Williams all declared a personal interest in the budget item for Perton Playing Fields Association.

184/07 **PARISH PRECEPT 2007/08**

The Clerk presented a breakdown of the Quarter 4 budget forecast for income and expenditure together with the forecast outturn for income and expenditure for 2006/07 which shows an estimated overspend of £20k pounds against income thus impacting the Parish reserve by the same amount. The Clerk then presented an outline budget estimate for income and expenditure for 2007/2008 which shows the impact to the budget following the reduction in reserves held.

Cllr A. Bourke queried the potential total cost for the new drainage scheme at Perton Playing Fields and expressed concern that it may exceed the quoted amount of £70k. Cllr A.K.James was able to provide assurance that the quote was for fixed costs and would not rise subject to proceeding within the agreed timeframe.

Cllr Mrs P.Allen expressed concern at the low level of the budget figure for the Parish reserve and the lack of funding shown against the MUGA.

Cllr D.Billson advised that following the outcome of discussions regarding Unitary status for Staffs CC / Staffs DC it was agreed that new operating partnerships would need to be agreed with the Parishes. Following discussion it was agreed that no budget figure should be included as it was currently impossible to quantify.

Following further debate the meeting went through the budget provisions for 2007/08 on a line by line basis and reached agreement for each item.

RESOLVED that the Parish Precept for 2007/08 be set at £190k.

This Precept, an increase of £45k over the current year, means that an average household at Council Tax Band D will be required to pay a total annual increase of £12.36p for the year or 24p per week compared to the current level.

The increase is required due to two significant budgeting aspects. Firstly the current year ending at March 31st 2007 is expected to show a shortfall of around £20k since the room hire rates at Perton Civic Centre, though previously raised, were not increased in 2006 to the levels originally budgeted for thus income was lower than planned. Additionally two extra key projects were undertaken to refurbish a number of Perton Village Bus shelters and also to replace the two aged road maps at the entrance roads to the village. Secondly, for 2007/08 an additional sum of £20k is included within the budget to contribute to a significant project for sport, this is likely to be towards either a new drainage project at Perton Playing Fields, the proposed multi-use games area (MUGA) in central Perton or an alternative project identified from the Parish Plan.

The meeting closed @ 8.30 pm

Cllr. A.K.James
Chairman
12th February 2007