

**Minutes of the Special Meeting of
PERTON PARISH COUNCIL
held at the Perton Civic Centre on
Wednesday 7th January 2009 @ 7:00pm**

Present Mrs C.Young [Chairman]
A.A. Bourke [Vice Chairman]
Mrs P.N. Pitt
Miss C.Duffell
D.Billson
A.K.James
N.P.Caine
A.K.Black

Tony Tappenden – Parish Clerk
Members of the Public present : None
Journalists: None

137/09 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were offered and accepted from Cllrs Mrs P.Allen, Mrs S.Bott, Mrs R. Heseltine, Mrs A.James, D.Heseltine, D.Fereday and S.Bott.

138/09 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

139/09 **PARISH PRECEPT 2009/10**

The Clerk outlined the previously distributed breakdown of the 2008/09 'End of Year' budget forecast for income and expenditure together with the outline discussion budget for 2008/09.

Cllr D.Billson said that he was concerned that the Civic Centre income could possibly drop in 2009/10 as a result of a decrease in bookings due to the current recession. Cllr N.P.Caine expressed the view that our room hire rates are possibly high compared to local competitors but following some discussion on this point it was agreed that whilst there may be some cheaper venues these did not have the equivalent quality of premises and facilities and that on a 'like for like' basis the Civic Centre is very cost effective compared to similar establishments.

Cllr A.K.James said that the premises were obviously aging and that on-going maintenance was always a potential drain on the expense budget. Following discussions on this point it was agreed that we should seek to ring fence funds in the budget in order to effect some building refurbishments at some time in the future.

The members scrutinised the 2009/10 outline budget and decided that it made sense to allocate funds to the building maintenance budget and also to allocate

additional funds to 'Partnership Working' in the knowledge that the next twelve months could present issues that the Parish would not be able to deal with in isolation. Nonetheless it was agreed that, given the current financial situation, the budget should not be increased beyond the levels of 2008 / 09.

RESOLVED that, following a unanimous vote by show of hands, the budget for 2009/10 be accepted and that the precept for 2009/10 be set at £200,000.00 this being the same as the preceding year. This Precept means that the average Perton household at Council Tax Band D will be required to pay £54.88 annually or £1.06 per week, a 0% increase on 2008/09.

The meeting closed @ 7.40 pm

Chairman
9th February 2009