

**THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE WHEATLEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 1 AUGUST 2022**

Present: Councillor J Miller (Chair)
Councillors E Carr, M Goyns, B Miller, C Stogdale

Apologies: Councillors J Collingwood, J Huntington, L Stewart, L White

1 LOCAL GOVERNMENT PAY NEGOTIATIONS 2022/2023

The Clerk provided an update on the local government pay negotiations for 2022/2023 and the impact this could have on the Parish Council.

Salaries for 2022/2023 were under negotiation but the employer's side had tabled an offer of a flat rate increase of £1,925 on all pay points. Members were advised that a set figure meant that the lower the salary initially, the higher the percentage increase would be, and details of actual increases were outlined.

To date the unions had not responded to the employer's offer and would be consulting their members before doing so. However, it was likely that budget provision would need to be made for a £1,925 increase for 2022/23 salaries, backdated to 1 April 2022, as a minimum.

The employers offer also proposed that from 1 April 2023 there would be an increase of one day annual leave for all employees and pay point 1 would be deleted from the NJC pay spine.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted and further developments be awaited.

2 APPRENTICE GROUNDSPERSON

The Clerk reported that further discussions had been held with East Durham College (EDC) regarding the possibility of the Parish Council taking on an apprentice Groundsperson. A meeting was also held with the Quality Officer from EDC to undertake the necessary Health and Safety vetting.

Details of the discussions with EDC were outlined to Members and the costs associated with employing an apprentice were circulated.

Members discussed at length the merits of employing an apprentice and the impact the possible pay increase would have on the budget. It was suggested that this was not the appropriate time to be employing additional staff.

Due to the current financial climate, it was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council would not employ an apprentice Groundsperson.

3 REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from All Saints Church, Wheatley Hill.

Members were advised that the Church was requesting financial assistance to help with costs associated with a family trip to South Shields.

RESOLVED that a donation of £250 be made from the Section 137 Budget.

..... Signed

..... Dated