

**EAST HARPTREE PARISH COUNCIL**

**CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON  
TUESDAY 16<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2018 REGARDING AGENDA ITEM 1810/11**

	Motion 1810/5, that the public and press will be excluded from this part of the meeting was so passed although no members of the public were present.
1810/11	<p><u>Budgetary Matters</u></p> <p>i) Draft forward budget – to consider a forward budget in the light of information from B&amp;NES. The clerk had circulated a draft budget summarising increased costs for the period 2022/23 following the cessation of the annual grant from B&amp;NES for the Parish Sweeper. East Harptree fell into category 1, meaning that an increase in the precept of 34.9% would be required to maintain the sweepers services. As a result, the annual grant would be phased out over two years ending in 2021/22. The clerk explained the budget in detail and also the calculations of the sweepers pay associated with the continuing increase in minimum wage. To retain the sweeper at 32 hours per month would result in an increase of the precept on 13% for each of the next three years until 2022/23. He had also allowed for a small annual increase to cover increased costs other than the sweeper. The proposed budget allowed to retain reserves of around £5000 throughout the period. Councillors asked Cllr Warren about the reasons for the loss of this grant. He advised that it was due to budgetary constraints. He also outlined the services available in Bath which were funded by a “business scheme”. Councillors agreed that the services on offer from B&amp;NES without the sweeper would not fulfil East Harptree’s requirements.</p> <p>ii) Role of the Parish Sweeper. Councillors agreed that the Parish Sweeper was invaluable to East Harptree. Cllr Waldron proposed that the sweeper would be retained at his current hours and on the basis of the calculations prepared by the clerk. This was agreed unanimously. The clerk advised that a review of the sweepers role and contract would be appropriate during the transition period. Cllr King to speak to the sweeper about the proposed changes and offer re-assurance about the continuation of his role. Clerk to prepare draft of a proposed circulation to parishioners outlining the reasons for the proposed increase in precept and the retention of the sweeper in his current role.</p>

**Alan Butcher, Parish Clerk,**

**20<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

**01749 870358; eastharptreeparishcouncil@gmail.com**

Signed ..... 20<sup>th</sup> November 2018

East Harptree Parish Council – Confidential Minutes of the Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Not for circulation or discussion beyond Parish Councillors