

## **Hunts Grove Parish Council**

**Meeting August 20<sup>th</sup> 2020**

### **Agenda Item 7 Finance and Precept**

#### **Introduction**

The New Parish Council of Hunts Grove was established in 2019, with it becoming active from April 2020. The precept had been set based on the same Council Tax Band D level as Hardwicke Parish Council.

Due to the COVID 19 Pandemic, elections did not take place and a shadow council was established. With no formal process set up for dealing with the new parish council's finances Stroud District Council requested that the initial precept be paid to Hardwicke Parish Council and for HPC to look after those funds until Hunts Grove Parish Council was fully formulated and able to set up its own bank accounts.

#### **Moving Forward**

Member of Hunts Grove Residents Association, who are also Parish Councillors on Hardwicke Parish Council wish to see the new Parish Council set up its own accounts quickly so that a clear break from Hardwicke Parish Council can be established. This is important for the identity and accountability of the new council and its shadow councillors. For its part, Hardwicke Parish Council is happy to assist the new council being established but is anxious move the funds to Hunts Grove Parish Council to enable the shadow council to be accountable for all items of expenditure and for clarity with Internal and External Audit processes.

#### **Interim Proposals**

Hunts Grove Parish Council will be required to approve items of expenditure and these commitments will be required prior to the opening of a new bank account and accounting procedures. The following is a proposal for dealing with urgent items of expenditure;

- Delegated authority to be given to the Chair/Vice Chair to approve expenditure up to a maximum of £500
- Hardwicke Parish Council to be requested to make approved payments
- Hardwicke Parish Council to invoice Hunts Grove Parish Council for the expenditure and for arrangements to be made to confirm payment to HPC
- All payments to form part of a regular finance report to be presented to meetings of Hunts Grove Parish Council
- The procedures to be reviewed once Hunts Grove Parish Council has its own banking accounts and arrangements established

Kevin Lee

Interim Clerk August 2020