

**EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF EASINGTON VILLAGE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT 1600 Hrs ON MONDAY 16th DECEMBER 2024**

Present: Cllr W Day (Chair)
Cllr A Lumsden
Cllr A Dent
Cllr R Parker
Cllr S Gibbins
Cllr A Childs
Cllr J Lee (Vice Chair)
Cllr N Fenwick

Staff: Mr P Moore (Clerk to Council)
Mrs H Hall (Deputy Clerk)

In Attendance: None

EVPC 24/25/125 Apologies for Absence

Cllr A Morton

RESOLVED: that the information given be NOTED and accepted.

EVPC 24/25/126 Declarations of Interest by members on items on the Agenda

None

EVPC 24/25/127 Public Participation

None

EVPC 24/25/128 The Clerk gave a briefing on why the meeting was called, in that a meeting of the Budget and Precept Sub Committee called for Mon 02 December had failed due to being non-quorate. It had become necessary therefore to call an extraordinary meeting of Council.

In preparing for the meeting, advice and information had been sought from a number of sources, in particular DCC Payroll as wages are the Council's largest expense and the impending rise in NIC's is likely to have a significant impact on the Council budget for 2025/26.

Essentially, in this meeting Council must make three decisions in order for paperwork to be returned to DCC by the 17 January 2025 deadline:

To consider a change in Grade for one employee from 01 April 2025.

To set the Precept for 2025/26.

To set the budget for 2025/26

Supporting paperwork and the DCC Precept calculator spreadsheet had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting.



EVPC 24/25/129 To determine the Council's current financial position on Monday 02 December 2024 – an update.

The Clerk gave the current financial position on 02 December 2024:

Business Current account:	£8050.00
Business Savings account:	£50,680.14
PSDF:	£76,281.36 (Statement 05 Dec 24)
Cash on hand:	£87.42
Total Cash Assets:	£135,098.92

The Clerk directed attention to the Council Income and expenditure report of 02 December. Key points are:

Some income streams are performing better than anticipated. The increase in staff wages was not anticipated for the 2023/24 nor 2024/25 budget – showing an overspend in each case. In preparing the 2025/26 Budget, great care had been taken to reduce costs centres based on current values and taking into account what is known of likely operating costs.

The Clerk directed attention to the Council wages spreadsheet for October and November 2024 which showed the 2024 pay award backdated to 01 April. This results in Council paying approx. £700 per month extra in wages from 01 April 2024 and there may be another pay award in 2025.

In order to set the Precept and Budget for 2025/26 and in anticipation of a further Local Government pay award in 2025, several options were prepared by DCC Payroll for planning purposes:

1. Current pay values with no 2025 pay award.
2. An average pay award of £1713.33 based on last 3 years rates.
3. A maximum pay award of £3000.

DCC noted that one employee was on SCP16 which is no longer used by DCC, the next available scale being SCP 17. Calculations showed that employee at SCP 17 and Council would be asked to consider that increase in grade prior to setting the Precept and Budget.

EVPC 24/25/130 To determine future impacts on Council finance – an update.

The Clerk gave details of what may be considered the greatest risks and impacts to Council finance in the future:

1. Pay award 2025 may be as high as 2.8% for all public sector employees.
2. Electoral costs for Council elections 2025. This would likely be shared with DCC if it happens at all. There would be no costs for a non-contested election.

EVPC 24/25/131 To consider Post ID 9029045 – to change from SCP16 to SCP17 from 01 April 2025 to align with DCC salary grades – to consider for approval.

SCP 16 is no longer used by DCC. All salary grades were adjusted to allow for 5 points between. The next available grade without a reduction is SCP

17. This would mean a salary increase of £396 / year and ERS cost increase of £531.65 / year to Council.

RESOLVED and APPROVED: That the post ID 9029045 be graded at SCP17 from 01 April 2025. The Clerk to inform DCC.

EVPC 24/25/132 **DCC Notification of Tax base and request for Precept 2025/26** – to consider options and set a precept for 2025/26.

This Council does not receive a Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (LCTRS) Grant. The current precept is £166,392.

Easington Village Parish

Tax Base (2024/25) = 924.4 (A)

Tax Base (2025/26) = 930.7 (B)

Tax Base Increase of 6.3 (C) (B-A = C)

Current Band D Council Tax (2024/25) = £180 (D)

Increase in Council Tax Yield = £1134.00 (E) (D x C = E)

Without any changes made to the precept by Council the precept would be: £167,526

Having considered the Council's current financial position and the likely impact of the UK Government Budget 2024 taking effect from April 2025, Council took into consideration three options of which each were sub divided into a no precept increase option and an increase option. There were further options within each of these, and the DCC Precept Ready Reckoner spreadsheet was used to explore each of these options. The basic options were:

1a Current values, no pay award, precept remains at £166,392.

1b Current values, no pay award, precept increases to £200,503, Band D increase of £35.43 to £215.43

2a Assumes pay award of £1713 average, precept remains at £166,392, Council accepts operating deficit of £46,104 in 2025/26.

2b Assumes pay award of £1713 average, precept increase to £212,496, no operating deficit, Band D increase of £48.32 to £228.32.

3a Assumes max pay award, precept remains at £166,392, Council accepts operating deficit of £54,660 in 2025/26.

3b Assumes max pay award, precept increases to £221,052, no operating deficit, Band D increase of £57.51 to £237.51.

Taking the many factors and options into consideration Council considered that due to increased operating costs a small increase in the precept was justified and that Council could accept a small operating deficit. This could be managed throughout the year as the 2025/26 financial situation becomes clearer and the implications of the Government budget make an impact on households and employers.



Council **RESOLVED** to set the 2025/26 Band D household precept at £200 which represents a precept at £186,140. The Clerk to prepare the necessary paperwork to be signed by the Chairman and Clerk and forwarded to DCC.

EVPC/24/25/133 To set the budget for 2025/26

Having set the Precept at £186,140 with wages set at the current values the budget was revised and printed for each member.

The Council then **RESOLVED**: That the budget for 2025/26 be accepted and approved.

EVPC/24/25/134 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council is scheduled for 1800 hrs Monday 13th January 2025 in the Milburn Room, Seaton Holme.

RESOLVED: that the information given be NOTED.

EVPC/24/25/135 Exclusion of the Press and Public – In accordance with Section 2 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

None received.

The meeting closed at 1715 Hrs

CERTIFIED TRUE RECORD

Chairman 

Date 

Distribution / Publication:

All Easington Village Parish Councillors
EVPC Website
Councillor A Surtees DCC