

DRAFT

Keswick and Intwood Parish Council Meeting on 10th January 2013 Minutes of the Meeting held at the Low Farm house 17.30.

Present: Ruth Ripman (RR) (Chair); Kevin Hanner (KH); Diana Bulman (DB) and Phillip Brooks (Clerk).

1. To finalise the Parish precept for 2013-14

1.1 Norfolk Association of Local Councils had advised that Councillors resident in the Parish were likely to have a disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of agreeing and setting a budget and precept (Localism Act 2011 s.31). On that basis, the Clerk received written requests from those attending to grant a dispensation enabling them to participate in the discussion. These requests were granted by the Council on the basis that without the dispensation the number of Councillors prohibited from participating would be so great a proportion as to impede the transaction of the business; and that granting the dispensation was in the interests of that resident in Keswick and Intwood.

1.2 At the Parish Council meeting on 21st November it was resolved to await further information from government about the process for setting local authority budgets before deciding on the precept for 2013 – 2014. It was anticipated that the Council would seek a small increase in line with the guidance received to cover inflation and provide adequate funds to maintain the Reading Room. Following that meeting the Clerk had circulated the following three options to Councillors for consideration prior to setting the precept. The options took into account the Tax Support changes etc. recently announced by government:

One. If the Council applied a 2% to our existing precept of £5,250 taking it to £5,355 it would receive a grant from government of £448 plus a precept of £4,907. By the time this calculation worked through to the council tax bills, residents of a band D property would see an increase of £0.73 in what they are paying for the parish council which would show as a 2.8% increase on bills.

Two. When percentages are used for council tax calculations they are applied to the tax for a band D property. This means that a 2% increase should properly be applied to the band D tax rate of £26.38. That would deliver a precept calculation of £5,318 made up of a grant from government of £448 plus a precept of £4,870. By the time this calculation worked through to the council tax bills, residents of a band D property would see an increase of £0.53 in what they are paying for the parish council.

Three. If the Council wanted to protect the residents from any increase at all our precept would need to reduce to £5,222 made up of a grant from government of £448 plus a precept of £4,774.

1.3 The Council considered the three options and, after reviewing the current financial position and known expenditure known for 2013-14, resolved to retain the precept at £5,250. Under the new arrangements this would comprise a precept of £4,802 and grant from government to district councils of £448. The precept was first set at £5,250 since 2009-10.

1.4 The Clerk reminded the Council that even though the precept was being maintained at the same level, the new arrangements, which involved changes in discounts and exemptions in Council Tax awarded to residents, the Parish would be seen as having to charge slightly more

per household to raise the same total income. PB thought this would be about 15 pence or 0.6% increase per annum. RR asked that a note be placed in the next edition of the *Newsletter* and on the website telling people about this. (**Action PB**).

1.5 The meeting closed at 18.00.

Phillip Brooks
Parish Clerk
12th January 2013.