**Minutes of Finance Committee Meeting – 12th December 2022**

**Present:** Cllr A Parrington, Cllr M Woods, Cllr P Morris and Clerk

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Cllr R Shepherd & Cllr S Hopper
2. **Matters Arising**
3. The Clerk had circulated a draft for the Precept Statement 2023-24 along with the current budget forecast. It was noted that there had been a large increase in energy bills in the current year and therefore Cllr M Woods recommended that was highlighted in the new precept. He felt it very important that the precept should include funds that can cover the community council’s electricity, street lighting loan and contingency. With inflation rates rising to 10% in was deemed necessary that the precept should be able to compare to this and so an increase of 8.3% was agreed. It was confirmed that there had been checks done to compare the councils reserves fund in comparison to other community councils of similar sizes and funds. The current precept is set at £68,000 and with this increase the new precept would be increased to around £73,700. It was agreed the Clerk would update the Precept Statement and send it out to the Finance Committee to confirm before being taken to the full Council meeting for comments prior to the deadline in January 2023.
4. The Clerk had the new salary scales for Clerks from NALC agreed by NJC for the finance committee to read and agree. Having checked them, the finance committee agreed to the implemented increase.
5. It was noted following circulation of the Internal Audit Report that the Clerk had been adding all direct debits to the Invoices Payable for the Council to approve and was making all purchases, where possible, with the Council Debit Card.
6. The Clerk had the results from the External Audit for 2020-21 and the result was a successful Unqualified result. The Clerk confirmed the audit notice would be put up in the noticeboards shortly.

The meeting ended.