

**MINUTES OF THE PRECEPT MEETING OF BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD  
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER ON 23rd JANUARY 2006 at 7 pm.**

<b><u>PRESENT</u></b>	Councillors	J. Barnett P. Collins Mrs. P. Desorgher D. Isham R. Lehmann G. Loftus H. Mordue R. Newell Mrs. P. Stevens Mrs. C. Strain-Clark P. Strain-Clark R. Stuchbury (Mayor)
	Town Clerk	Ms. P. J. Heath

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors H. Cadd and Mrs. H. Saul.

Member discussed at great length and in detail the figures sent with the agenda and amended by email on 20<sup>th</sup> January; as not all members appeared to have received or read the email the Chairman was asked to confirm the adjusted figures.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members noted that this had not been shown as a separate item on the agenda as members were asked to declare their interest at the appropriate time. The Chairman indicated that he would not discuss the budget line by line therefore members were asked to declare their interest. The Clerk recorded the following declarations

**BUDGET 2005/2006**

**FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

**101 WAGES**

4001 Town Clerk	£26703
4002 Clerical Assistants	£11819.10
4003 Caretaker	£6287.54
4005 National Ins. Ers	£2696.28
4006 Pension Ers	£5769.45
4007 Staff Travel	£800
4008 Wages Fee	£30
4028 Councillor's mileage	£100

**102 OFFICE EXPENSES**

4010 Stationery	£800
4011 Postage	£600
4012 Photocopier	£200
4013 Equipment Purchase	£6000

The Members discussed whether the purchase of the Canon photocopier should be shown as a total in 1 year or should the actual cost be spread over several years.

Proposed by Cllr. P. Strain-Clark, seconded by Cllr. R. Lehmann, that the Council should purchase the Canon photocopier in 2005 but with only £1500 being shown against the code 4013 and the remaining £4500 coming out of contingencies; in subsequent years a paper only transfer should be shown of £1500 each year between 4013 and Contingencies. Vote 2 for 8 against.

4014 Audit Fee	£1100
4015 Advertising	£500

4017 Subscription	£1700
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The Members queried the amount being paid in subscriptions and in particular the amount due to BALC/NALC at £1000. Members agreed to monitor the use of BALC/NALC services during 2005 to ascertain if the Council was receiving good value.

4018 Telephone	£1200
4019 Hire of halls	£400
4020 Mayor's Allowance	£2600
4021 Hospitality	£150
4022 Insurance	£10000
4023 Training	£300
4024 Bank Charges	£300
4025 Legal Fees	£1500
4026 Conference	£750
4029 Information Service	£100
4030 Petty Cash	£250
4031 Protective Clothing	£100
4032 Rates Leaflet/Annual Report	£1000

### **120 GRANTS**

4070 Grants	£9210
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Aylesbury Vale Dial a Ride	£500
Buck. & Winslow Community Care	£250
Buck. Community Racing	£250
Buckingham School	£300
MM Friends in Hand	£50
PSL	£500

Concern was raised that this project was not self funding as indicated by the trustees when this was set up.

Proposed by Cllr. Lehmann, seconded by Cllr. C. Strain-Clark, and **AGREED** 6 votes to 4 to decrease the grant to £500

TV & Chiltern Air Ambulances	£300
CAB	£750
Buck. Twinning Association	£160
Summer Festival	£750

Proposed by Cllr. Lehmann, seconded by Cllr. P. Strain-Clark, and **AGREED** by 12 votes to 0 to reduce this grant to £750

Buck Society	£100
Buck Tea Dance	£100
Buck & District Crossroad Carers	£500
Old Gaolers	£300
Bourton Road Allotments	£500
Buck Canal Society	£100
Centre for the Arts	£1000

Concern was raised that the money was being used to fund public equipment going into a private building. It was explained that this was to be used in the cinema project which would be open to the public; an agreement would be in place to safeguard the future

ownership of the equipment. Cllr. Cadd as the Town Council Representative agreed to report to the next Council meeting on the agreement and progress of the project.

It was agreed that the money should be paid against a specific piece of equipment on production of the invoice.

Buck. Chamber Orchestra	£200
Buck. Heritage Trust	£200
Buck. Age Concern	£250
The Buzz Club	£200
Fremantle Trust	£1000
Vale Volunteers	£200
Well Street Church	£375
St Peter & St Paul's Church	£375

Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. Barnett, and **AGREED** that S<sup>t</sup>. Peter and S<sup>t</sup>. Paul's Church and Well Street Church grant should be increased to £375 each.

### **130 ADMIN RESERVES (INCOME)**

1010 Chamber hire	-£50
1190 Interest Received	-£5000

Proposed by Cllr. Lehmann, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, that the budget allocation for Interest Received should be increased to £5000 due to the recent increases in the interest rate.

4080 By Elections	£2000
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### **131 MAJOR PROJECTS**

4079 Public toilets	£2600
4084 Community Centre cash flow underwrite	£10000
4085 Community Centre capital fund	£6000
4096 All Weather pitch	£600
4150 Verney Park Purchase	£5000

### **132 CONTINGENCIES**

4086 Youth Centre	£6500
4500 Contingencies	£10000

## **ENVIRONMENT AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

### **201 PROPERTY PURCHASE**

4101 Seats & Bins	£3000
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### **202 ROUNDABOUTS**

4108 Sponsorship	-£2000
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the Members discussed the concept behind the sponsoring of the roundabouts and the agreement of the council with the Sponsors in that the money would be used to improve and enhance the maintenance of the roundabouts. The Clerk pointed out that this had formed part of the negotiations with the Sponsors.

Proposed by Cllr. Lehmann, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and **AGREED** on the Chairman's casting vote by 6 votes to 5 that the Council should budget for a £2000 profit on the sponsoring of the roundabouts.

### **203 MAINTENANCE**

4051 Repairs and Renewals Office	£800
4052 Heat Light Power	£1300
4053 Overn Crescent	£2500

4055 Alarm	£220
4056 Church Hill	£1500
4057 War Memorial	£600
4058 Car Parking	£20000
4062 Verney Close Maintenance	£1500
4063 Vehicle Hire	£1000

The need for a vehicle hire budget was discussed. Cllr. Mordue explained the rationale behind the budget and the need for access to a vehicle with the Council's maintenance contract with AVDC ending the day previous. The Council now had to maintain the 2 parks, undertake the litter pick and empty the bins; although the Clerk had put into place temporary measures until the new horticultural contracts could be issued by the Council.

4094 Youth projects	£2000
4102 Dog Bins	£5675
4103 Railway Walk	£2100
4105 Ken Tagg Play area	£500

#### **401 CHANDOS PARK**

1030 Bowls Pavilion income	-£1800
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The Members discussed the history behind the non collection of rent by AVDC. A meeting with the Bowls Club is scheduled for 15<sup>th</sup> February 2005 to begin negotiations for a lease. The Clerk explained that no figure had been entered into the budget in keeping with prudent housekeeping.

Proposed by Cllr. Barnett, seconded by Cllr. Stuchbury, and **AGREED** to put £1800 into the budget.

1035 Tennis Club Lease	-£750
4225 Rates	£2000
4601 Repairs and Renewals	£7350
4602 Electricity	£800
4603 Water	£800
4605 Horticultural work	£26000

#### **402 BOURTON PARK**

4601 Repairs and Renewals	£3900
4604 River and Pond Maintenance	£2000
4605 Horticultural Work	£32500

#### **403 CEMETERY**

1031 Burials VAT-able	-£2000
1032 Burials Non VAT-able	-£6000

The Members felt the Clerk's budgeted income was too prudent. Proposed by Cllr. Lehmann, seconded by Cllr. Collins, and **AGREED** that the budget for non VAT-able burials income should be increased to £6000.

4225 Rates	£650
4601 Repairs and Renewals	£2100
4602 Electricity	£1000
4603 Water	£500
4605 Horticultural Work	£25000
4609 Repair of Lodge	£20000

The Members discussed the financing of the repairs to the Lodge and the servicing of the loan from the Public Loans Board.

#### **404 CHANDOS PARK TOILETS**

4612 Service Contracts £10000

**405 GENERAL REPAIRS**

4601 General Repairs to 401-404 codes £50000

The Members discussed the work carried out in 2004/5 on the Cemetery paths and committed amount to the Chandos Park Toilets DDA requirements. It was **AGREED** that the E & P Committee should draw up a schedule of works for future years.

**301 EVENTS COMMITTEE**

4104 Town in Bloom	£8000
4107 Pride of Place	£400
4115 River Rinse	£150
4201 Christmas Lights	£11800
4202 Fireworks Display	£3800
4203 Community Fair	£175
4204 Charter Fair	-£250
4205 Christmas Parade	£2400
4206 Week in the Park	£2500
4207 Town Guide	£500
4208 Spring Festival	£3250
4210 Pancake Race	£200
4228 Entertainment	£1500

**302 STREET MARKETS**

1001 Rental Income	-£37000
1004 Farmers Market Rent	-£900
4224 Refuse Collection	£20000
4225 Rates	£6825
4226 Supervisors	£1100
4227 Advertisement	£200
4229 Sundry Expenditure	£500
4602 Electricity Farmers Market	£400

**303 SPECIAL EVENTS**

4260 Twinning	£1500
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**501 COMMUNITY PLAN WORKING GROUP**

1017 Match Funding	£7500
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**133 LONG TERM ADMINISTRATION RESERVES**

4081 Parade Signs permission	£1000
4083 Capital Reserve	£53277.63
4092 Church Hill Wall Repairs	£10000
4095 Flood Defence Enhancement	£2000

Members agreed to build the enhancement budget by £2000 each year until a total of £10,000 is reached in 2008/2009.

Total Revenue Budget	£379910.37
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Total Long Term Reserves held	£66277.63
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## **PRECEPT REQUEST AMOUNT FOR 2005/2006**

Members discussed at great length the total precept need by the Town Council to service its budget requirements and provide a sound basis for prudent housekeeping. Members were aware that in recent years the Council's reserves had fallen below the CIPFA recommendation of 3 – 6 months revenue.

Proposed by Cllr. Collins, seconded by Cllr. Isham, that this council should set the precept at a 7% rise on 2004/05 at £64.95

An amendment was proposed by Cllr. Barnett, seconded by Cllr. Newell, that this council should set the precept at a 3% rise on 2004/05 at £62.52 for Band D property was defeated by 8 votes to 4.

An amendment by Cllr. Stevens, seconded by Cllr. Newell, that this council should set the precept at a 5% rise on 2004/05 at £63.74 for Band D property was defeated by 7 votes to 5.

Proposed by Cllr. Lehmann, supported by 3 members, that the vote on the substantive motion be recorded.

(Proposed by Cllr. Collins, seconded by Cllr. Isham, that this council should set the precept at a 7% rise on 2004/05 at £64.95 for Band D property.)

For – Councillors D. Isham, P. Strain-Clark, P. Collins, C. Strain-Clark, H. Mordue, and R. Stuchbury

Against – Councillors R. Newell, H. Cadd, P. Desorgher, J. Barnett, R. Lehmann, P. Stevens.

The Motion was carried by the Chairman's casting vote.

## **CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

There were no Chairman's items for information

Meeting closed at 9.55 pm.

CHAIRMAN ..... DATE .....