

Minutes of the **Precept** meeting of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 21st January 2013** in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham at 8pm following the Full Council meeting.

Present: Cllr. T. Bloomfield
 Cllr. H. Cadd
 Cllr. P. Collins
 Cllr. G. Collins
 Cllr. J. Harvey
 Cllr. P. Hirons
 Cllr. D. Isham
 Cllr. R. Lehmann
 Cllr. A. Mahi
 Cllr. H. Mordue
 Cllr. Ms. R. Newell (Town Mayor)
 Cllr. Mrs. L. O'Donoghue (Deputy Mayor)
 Cllr. M. Smith
 Cllr. R. Stuchbury
 Cllr. W. Whyte

In attendance: Mr. C. P. Wayman Town Clerk
 Mrs. C. Bolton Committee Clerk

683/12 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Strain-Clark and Try.

684/12 Declarations of interest

Cllrs. Bloomfield, Smith & Whyte declared an interest as Trustees of the Old Gaol.
 Cllr Cadd and Cllr Smith declared an interest in the Citizens Advice Bureau.
 Cllrs Hirons and P Collins declared an interest in St Peter & St Paul's Church.
 Cllr Mordue declared an interest in The Swan Community Hub Ltd.

685/12 Budgets 2012/13

Councillor Harvey initially commented that as there is no Town Council plan with set priorities the budget setting process and what areas need funding is made more difficult. Furthermore that such a plan should be created to aid in future years.

The Town Clerk gave a brief introduction to his report, indicating that the most important impact was mostly due to changes in Localisation of Council Tax Support; The Council Tax base had also been decreased again from 4433.94 to 4393.25 and then to 3975.89, thus resulting in a cut of £4,942 and £50,692 respectively. Grants from Central Government via AVDC had been passed on to cover 90% of the shortfall – but these were not guaranteed in future years.

Councillors held a very thorough discussion over the budgets presented, questioning specifics on Events, Parks, Earmarked Projects, Staff costs and the Buckingham Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Members discussed whether to aim for 0% Precept increase, taking the extra from reserves, or raise the rate by up to 4%.

Proposed by Cllr. Harvey, seconded by Cllr. O'Donoghue and **AGREED** that the officer recommendations be adopted as the Town Council budget.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

686/12 s137 Resolution

To resolve to provide sundry grants under the General Power of Competence as follows:

Resolved that the Council in accordance with its powers under the General Power of Competence, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure:

The Town Clerk explained that there were various ordinances allowing the Town Council to give grants to local organisations and those that fell under s137 of the Act required a specific resolution. The other grants fell within the Council's remit.

Resolved that the Council in accordance with its powers under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure:

1. Air Training Corps	£0
2. Aylesbury Vale Dial A Ride	£250
3. Aylesbury Vale Fibromyalgia Support Group	£0
4. Aylesbury Vale Transport Users Group	£0*
5. Buckingham Churches Childrens Holiday Club	£500
6. Buckingham Festival of Music & Drama	£200
7. Buckingham Summer Festival	£750
8. Citizens Advice Bureau	£5,000
9. Friends of the Old Gaol Museum	£0
10. Frogs (Friends of Grenville School)	£0
11. Milton Keynes Credit Union Ltd	£500
12. North Bucks Carers Support Group	£400
13. Project Street Life	£500
14. Relate Mid Thames & Bucks	£100
15. St Peter & St Pauls Church	£1,000
16. The Swan Community Hub Ltd	£500
17. Vitalise	£0
18. Well Street United Church	£0
19. YC2 – Buckingham & Winslow Young Carers	£300

Total Grants Awarded £10,000

(* Provide room hire free of charge

Councillors **AGREED** that Well St United Church grant should be declined as they had not provided a set of accounts as stipulated.

687/12 Precept Resolution

Proposed by Cllr. Harvey, seconded by Cllr. O'Donoghue and **AGREED** that £48,604 be taken from Reserves to ensure a 0% rise in the Precept. and for a comprehensive town Council Plan be formulated to reflect the major ambitions set for the town and that a review of the grants policy is undertaken.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

[Clerks note: following submitting the precept to AVDC it has come to light that due to the grant being given and classed as an income stream to the Council the decision above would result in adding to reserves £2,088

Councillors requested a counted vote:

For: 13

Against: 0

Abstention: 1

Cllr. T. Bloomfield

Cllr. H. Mordue

Cllr. H. Cadd

Cllr. P. Collins

Cllr. G. Collins

Cllr. J. Harvey

Cllr. P. Hirons

Cllr. D. Isham

Cllr. R. Lehmann

Cllr. A. Mahi

Cllr. Ms. R. Newell

(Town Mayor)

Cllr. Mrs. L. O'Donoghue

(Deputy Mayor)

Cllr. M. Smith

Cllr. R. Stuchbury

Cllr. W. Whyte

688/12 Chairman's Announcements

There were no announcements.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Signed Date

Town Mayor