

Minutes of a meeting of the Precept meeting of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018** in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham at 7:00pm.

**Present:**

Cllr. Ms. J. Bates	
Cllr. T. Bloomfield	
Cllr. M. Cole	Deputy Town Mayor
Cllr. Mrs. G. Collins	
Cllr. P. Collins	
Cllr. Mrs. M. Gateley	
Cllr. J. Harvey	Town Mayor
Cllr. Hirons	
Cllr. D. Isham	
Cllr. A. Mahi	
Cllr. Ms. R. Newell	
Cllr. O'Donoghue	
Cllr. M. Smith	
Cllr. Mrs. C. Strain-Clark	

**In attendance:**

Mr. C. P. Wayman	Town Clerk
Cllr. W. Whyte	County Councillor
Mrs. N. Stockill	Committee Clerk

#### **631/17 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. Stuchbury, Mordue and Try.

#### **632/17 Declarations of Interest**

To receive declarations of any personal or prejudicial interest under consideration on this agenda in accordance with the Localism Act 2011, Sections 26-34 & Schedule 4.

Cllr. Newell declared an interest as a member of the AED project.

Cllrs Smith and Bloomfield declared interests as Trustees of the Old Gaol.

Cllrs. Strain-Clark and P. Collins declared interests as members of the U3A.

#### **633/17 Budgets 2018/19**

To discuss and agree the Town Council budgets for the financial year 2018/19.

Members discussed the proposed budget and noted the overall increase in payroll due to new roles in Greenspaces and the Town Planning Officer (fixed term part time contract for 1 year with possibility for an extension) and increased employer contributions to the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Proposed by Cllr. P. Collins and seconded by Cllr. Hirons to adjust the 2018/19 budgets to apportion staffing costs against appropriate committee budget headings.

A vote was taken and the results were:

For: 11

Against: 0

Abstentions: 3

Motion carried

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

Members held a thorough discussion on the committees' commitments that culminated in the 11.06% proposal and were in agreement that Full Council needed a stricter budget forecast earlier in the financial year.

Proposed by Cllr. Newell, seconded by Cllr. P. Collins and unanimously **AGREED** for the Town Clerk and Finance Officer to implement a new budgetary cycle and monitoring regime in 2018/19 that allows the Committees and Full Council to set a long-term budgets for Committee expenditure and identify the budgetary implications of decisions made, earlier in the Autumn. **ACTION TOWN CLERK/FINANCE OFFICER**

Proposed by Cllr. Newell that the Town Clerk's report and recommendations be accepted. This was later voted on.

Proposed by Cllr. P. Collins and seconded by Cllr. G. Collins to remit the precept budget to the Town Clerk to recalculate the figures and make the necessary cuts to reduce the precept to no more than the rate of inflation Motion Fell

Cllr. Mahi seconded Cllr. Newell's proposal that the Precept budget should be 11.06%.

Cllr. P. Collins called for a recorded vote on Cllr. Newell's proposal and the results were:

For: Cllr. Newell, Cllr. Harvey, Cllr. Strain-Clark, Cllr. Bates, Cllr. Isham and Cllr. Mahi.

Against: Cllr. P. Collins, Cllr. Smith, Cllr. Hirons, Cllr. Cole, Cllr. Bloomfield and Cllr. G. Collins.

Abstentions: Cllr. M. Gateley and Cllr. O'Donoghue.

The casting vote fell to the Chairman. Cllr. Harvey voted against the motion to maintain the status quo as defined by the earlier vote.

Motion fell.

#### **TOWN CLERK/AGENDA ITEM 5**

Members were in general agreement that the Town Clerk would be unable to reduce the overall increase in the precept budget to a figure of 3% without severely impacting on the Town Council's commitments and agreed projects expenditure.

#### **634/17 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 Council Agreed to funding of **£10,300***

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Grant Awarded</b>
Buckingham AED Project	£900
Buckingham Camera Club	£400
Buckingham Churches Children's Holiday Club	£500
Buckingham Literary Festival	£700
Buckingham Summer Festival	£1,200
Buckingham Tennis Club	£1,000
Buckingham West End Bowls Club	£500
Chandos Park Bowls Club	£500
Friends of the Old Gaol Museum	£750
Lace Hill Resident's Association	£1,000
North Bucks Carers	£1,000

Open House	£300
Project Street Life	£500
Swan Community Hub Ltd	£1000
U3A Creative Writers Group	£50
Woolpack Inn with Royal British Legion	£0

Members discussed the process by which grant applications are reviewed and recommended to Full Council.

Proposed by Cllr. Smith and seconded by Cllr. Bloomfield to discuss the grants application for 2019 at the Full Council meeting of Buckingham Town Council on the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

For: 11

Against: 3

Motion carried

**ACTION TOWN CLERK/ COMMITTEE CLERK**

Cllr. O'Donoghue expressed concern over the grant to Lace Hill Residents Association.

Proposed by Cllr. P. Collins and seconded by Cllr. O'Donoghue to not issue a grant to the U3A and Lace Hill Residents Association and to reduce all other grants by 50%.

Cllr. P. Collins called for a recorded vote and the results were:

For: Cllr. P. Collins, Cllr. O'Donoghue and Cllr G. Collins.

Against: Cllr. Bates, Cllr. Bloomfield, Cllr. Cole, Cllr. Gateley, Cllr. Harvey, Cllr. Hirons, Cllr. Isham, Cllr. Mahi, Cllr. Newell, Cllr. Smith and Cllr. Strain-Clark.

Motion fell.

Proposed by Cllr. Gateley and seconded by Cllr. O'Donoghue to reduce all public grants by 10%. A vote was taken and the results were:

For: 6

Against: 8

Motion fell.

Proposed by Cllr. Harvey and seconded by Cllr. Newell to award all grants as listed above. A vote was taken and the results were:

For: 11

Against: 3

Motion carried.

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

Total grants awarded: £10,300

### **635/17 Precept 2018-19**

To pass a resolution agreeing the Precept figure for 2018-19 as per the above discussions.

Proposed by Cllr. P. Collins and seconded by Cllr. P. Hirons to remit the precept budget to the Town Clerk to recalculate the figures and make the necessary cuts to reduce the increase in the precept budget to 7%. A vote was taken and the results were:

For: 5

Against: 7

Abstentions: 2

Motion not carried.

Cllr. Smith suggested recommending an approximate percentage by which the Town Clerk should seek to reduce the proposed precept figure.

Proposed by Cllr. Newell and seconded by Cllr. Strain-Clark to accept 8.99% as calculated by the Town Clerk.

A recorded vote was taken and the results were:

For: Cllr. Harvey, Cllr. Newell, Cllr. Gateley, Cllr. Strain-Clark, Cllr. Bates and Cllr. Mahi.

Against: Cllr. P. Collins, Cllr. Smith, Cllr. Hirons, Cllr. O'Donoghue, Cllr. Cole, Cllr. Bloomfield, Cllr. Isham and Cllr. G. Collins.

Motion fell.

Proposed by Cllr. Smith and seconded by Cllr. Hirons to remit the precept budget to the Town Clerk to recalculate the figures and make the necessary cuts to reduce the increase in the precept budget to a figure closer to 7%. A vote was taken and the results were:

For: 8

Against: 5

Abstentions: 1

Motion carried

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

The Town Clerk explained that the revised precept figures would be placed on the Full Council agenda on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018.

**636/17 Chairman's Announcements**

None.

Meeting closed at: 8.11pm

Signed ..... Date .....

Town Mayor