

R/04/21

Minutes of a meeting of the **Resources Committee** of Buckingham Town Council held on Monday 10th January 2022 in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham at 7pm.

Present: Cllr. J. Harvey Vice Chair
Cllr. M. Gateley Town Mayor
Cllr. H. Mordue
Cllr. Mrs. O'Donoghue Chair
Cllr. A. Ralph
Cllr. R. Stuchbury

Also present: Mr. P. Hodson Town Clerk

PUBLIC SESSION

No members of the public attended and so there was no public session.

573/21 Apologies for Absence

RESOLVED to receive and accept apologies from Councillors Collins and Try. Members received apologies from Mrs Nina Stockill, Committee Clerk.

574/21 Declarations of Interest

None were received.

575/21 Minutes

RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the Resources Committee meetings held on Monday 20th September 2021 and Monday 8th November 2021.

576/21 Minutes of CSG Committee

Members received the minutes of the Communications Strategy Group meeting held on Wednesday 24th November 2021.

577/21 Action Report

Members noted the Action Report. It was **AGREED** to consider the Compliments and Complaints log at the next meeting. **ACTION COMMITTEE CLERK**

578/21 Budgets

Members noted the income not yet received. The Town Clerk advised Members that a report detailing all outstanding payments would be provided to the next meeting as part of the preparation for year-end. **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

The Town Clerk agreed to clarify to the Environment Committee whether the Railway Walk and Castle Hill Budget is also used for the volunteers' work along the Scenic Walk.

578/21 Precept 2022/23

10/01/2022

DRAFT SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION

1

PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY 2010/CRIME AND DISORDER ACT, 1988: the decisions made during the course of the meeting were duly considered and it was decided that there were no resulting direct or indirect implications in respect of crime and disorder, or equalities considerations, other than those stated in the minutes.

Initial.....

R/04/21

Proposed by Cllr Stuchbury and seconded by Cllr Ralph to agree the report recommendations:

- That the 2022/23 budget as set out be recommended to Full Council;
- To recommend that the Council adopts the budgets attached and increases the precept from £903,930 to £942,773, at a cost of £175.74 per Band D household, an increase of £38,843, or £2.47 from the current level of £173.27, i.e. 1.43% per year, being less than 5p per week;
- To recommend the changes to the ear-marked reserves proposed;
- To recommend that the total funding requirement for 2022/23 to be levied on Buckinghamshire Council be set at £942,773;
- To recommend that the Council adopts the five-year budget attached for budgetary planning purposes, noting that the Precept Meeting each year will decide the actual budget and precept for the following year;
- To recommend that the Council's Reserves Policy is to hold between four and five months' Net Revenue Expenditure as a General Reserve.

It was agreed to suspend standing Orders to allow Cllr Osibogun to speak. Cllr Osibogun asked the Committee to support Option 4.1 and proposed that items which are budgeted to be increased over 100% are reviewed

Cllr. Gateley spoke in favour of the recommendation, and noted that Buckinghamshire Council are proposing an increase greater than inflation.

Cllr. Stuchbury reminded members that the budget had been considered beforehand by the relevant committees.

Members unanimously **AGREED** the recommendations.

579/21 Local Government Pension Scheme

Cllr. Harvey expressed concern that the nine representatives on the Buckinghamshire LGPS Pension Fund Committee are all men, and suggested that the Town Clerk write to the Chair of the Fund to suggest that in future years the Fund Committee considers appointing a more diverse set of representatives.

Councillor Gateley raised the need to invest ethically. The Town Clerk advised Members that the Committee had received information about the fund's ethical approach recently, and undertook to circulate to members. **ACTION TOWN CLERK**

Councillors **AGREED** to delay writing until the Committee has considered any further information about the Fund's ethical investment policy.

580/21 Financial Management and Risk Assessment

Members **AGREED** the revised Financial Management and Risk Assessment.

10/01/2022

DRAFT SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION

2

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581/21 Covid-19

The Town Clerk updated Members that the government have recently issued a statement making it clear that there are no imminent plans to allow a return to virtual or hybrid meetings.

Proposed by Cllr. Harvey and seconded by Cllr. O'Donoghue that the Council write to Greg Smith MP expressing disappointment and urging the government to introduce legislation to allow Councils to become more inclusive by being able to make the decision locally as to whether or not to adopt virtual or hybrid meetings.

AGREED.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

582/21 Climate Emergency Action Plan Review

To review the updated Climate Emergency Action Plan
Members reviewed and **AGREED** the updated Action Plan and noted that good progress is being made.

583/21 Staff Handbook Update

Members **AGREED** the recommendation to adopt the updated Buckingham Town Council Handbook as described.

584/21 Health & Safety Policy Update

Members **AGREED** the recommendation to agree to adopt the updated Buckingham Town Council Health and Safety Policy as described.

585/21 Media Policy Review

Members requested that a further version be provided to the next meeting.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

586/21 Standing Orders

Members **AGREED** to recommend the revised version of Standing Orders to Full Council.

587/21 Appeal of an application for a variation of a premises licence at: Buckingham Simply Food Connect, Stratford Road, Buckingham, MK18 1NY PR202104251190

Members **AGREED** to defer this item to the next appropriate meeting.

588/21 Chair's Announcements

There were none.

589/21 Date of next meeting: 31st January 2022

Meeting closed at: 20:03

Signed

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Date

DRAFT

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DRAFT SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION

4

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