

WHITNASH TOWN COUNCIL

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 12th January 2017 at 7.00 p.m. in the Whitnash Town Council office, Franklin Road, Whitnash.

PRESENT: Councillors: B Smart – Chairman
A Barton
S Button
G Cancilla
B Franklin
T Heath
R Margrave
R Sparkes

Town Clerk: Jenny Mason

In attendance: Kerry Samperi – Finance Assistant

50/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Short. Apologies were accepted.

51/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Members declared an interest in item 56/17 as they are Members of the Twinning Association: *Cllrs Barton, Button, Cancilla, Heath, Margrave, Smart and Sparkes.*

52/17 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meetings held on 8th December 2016 as circulated were approved and signed as a true record.

53/17 MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THOSE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

54/17 APPROVE PRECEPT FOR 2017 – 2018

The precept for 2017 – 2018 was confirmed and approved. All Members present voted in favour.

The budgeted precept is £178,461 less the WDC Tax Support Grant will be £172,145 which amounts to an annual increase of £8.67.

The Council Tax Support Grant will be reduced by 1/3 over the next 3 years and cease from 2019 / 2020.
The concurrent services payment has been reduced by 50% for 2017 / 2018 and will be reduced by a further 50% for 2018 / 2019.

55/17 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AS AT 3rd JANUARY 2017

The income and expenditure as at 3rd January 2017 was presented to Members.

Overspends:

Sage Software & Anti-virus software reported previously

Insurance - the overspend on F&GP is offset by an underspend on H&PF this is because the insurers altered the split between them, the liability costs which are charged to finance are considered to be higher than costs to insure play equipment etc.

Christmas Lights - the expenditure is offset by the income the current balance is -£263, awaiting the invoice from Eon, the final debit balance will be covered by the money held in reserves.

56/17 GRANT APPLICATION

The Whitnash Twinning Association grant application was deferred at the November meeting as all Members present were also Members of the Twinning Association.

As only one Member present was not a Twinning Member this grant application will be considered at the Town Council on 19th January 2017 where non-Twinning Members can make a decision.

57/17 IT

The Finance Assistant's computer will be upgraded as the processor is not powerful enough to run Sage and Excel at the same time.

The 2017 -2018 precept includes computer back up software based on a quotation received from Colins IT. Members proposed that the cloud offsite backup that includes email. This service will start on 1st April 2017.

58/17 WEBSITE UPDATE

Cllrs Franklin, McFadden and Margrave met last year to discuss this and improvements need to be made. Cllr Margrave will address this.

59/17 MEMBER'S ALLOWANCE POLICY AMENDMENT

Member's Allowance Policy has been amended to reflect that printing and stationery costs up to an amount of £25 will be re-imbursed if used exclusively for Town Council business. Bona Fide receipts must be submitted to the office at the beginning of October each year.

60/17 WHITNASH TYMES REVIEW

Whitnash Tymes is currently running at a loss due to increase in number of copies printed to cover new housing developments and reduction in advertising. Cllr Mrs Falp sent an email suggesting that there should be a small charge for local organisations / charities (Whitnash based) i.e. £5 or £10. Cllr Mc Fadden submits articles for publication in the Courier and groups can apply for grants from Whitnash Town council, Community Forum and W.D.C. which include the opportunity to ask for promotion and advertising costs. Members proposed a 20% increase in advertising costs, a second proposal was put forward for a 10% increase. Six Members voted in favour of a 10% increase in advertising costs as from summer 2017 edition. Advertisers will be notified when the spring 2017 invoices are sent out.

61/17 CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

62/17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 23rd March 2017 at 7.00 p.m.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed.

SIGNEDDATE