

Meeting (No)

Time & Date

Location

FULL COUNCIL (8) BUDGET

6.30pm, 17th January 2017

Town Hall, High Street, Neston

Minutes

Present: Cllrs Shipman (Mayor), Barker, Carter, Chambers, Clayton, Fleetwood, Griffiths, Kynaston, Loch, Marlow and Montgomery, Pilley, Roberts and Wilkie and Mrs Kunaj (Council Manager)

PART 1: Items considered in the presence of the press and public

119 Questions and comments from residents

120 Apologies for absence

Resolved to accept apologies from Cllrs Jilani (business) and Lloyd (personal).

Absent: Cllr Cray's absence was noted.

121 Declarations of Interest: None.

122 Council Manager's Report

In addition to the published report: -

Media Training: The Council Manager and the Governance and Operations Manager have booked onto a Media Skill course for February. Little interest was demonstrated by Councillors to undertake bespoke training.

Buckingham Palace Garden Party 2017: In response to an invitation from ChALC for local councils to nominate the names of their outgoing chairmen and partners to enter a draw for four people from Cheshire, the Council Manager has nominated Cllr Shipman and his wife.

Highways issues: An update will be provided at the Planning and Environment Committee meeting 24.01.16.

123 Chairman's Announcements

Standing Order Training: An open session is arranged for 14th February at 6pm

Item 124.2 The first two bullet points are to be considered and disposed of before consideration is made for item 124.1.

Item 132 b This item is deferred to 21st February 2017 Council meeting at the request of the complainant.

124 Precept

- 1 The budgets, RFO's draft budget 2017/18 and supporting information.

This item was carried forward to follow item 124.2b – see below

124 Finance & General Purposes Committee recommendations

2 b Resolved: That,

- the Town Centre Committee budget be reduced by £2,000, £1,000 from Assets & Events and £1,000 from Market & Promotion
- the asset management underspend of £14,373 be vired to Town Hall/Market Square earmarked reserves.

Mayor's initial and date

21 FEB 2016

124 Precept

- 1 The budgets, RFO's draft budget 2017/18 and supporting information were presented. Details of the proposed and agreed reductions were advised. Some reductions had not been met. Due to a number of changes to the committee terms of references at the beginning of the Council year, direct comparisons could not be made. The RFO explained the variances.

2 Finance and General Purposes Committee

- a The Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee of 13 December 2016 were noted.
- b The Finance & General Purposes Committee recommendations.

The first two bullet points in item 124.2 b, were carried forward to follow item 124.1 - see above.

Bullet point 3, 'that the level of Council Tax for Band D residents remain unchanged at £37.43, the same level as for 2016/17' was considered.

- 3 Council considered Council Tax Precept Calculation 2017-2018. The reduction in Council tax base and the reduction in the Council Tax Support Grant, along with the threat of Parish precept 'capping' and the possible increases for future years were all considered.

The impact of using a higher working capital in the calculation were demonstrated. Inflation had not been factored into the budget calculations.

An amendment to the recommendation was made, that 'to cover the rate of inflation and other basic income reductions and uncertainties, that the Local Council Tax Band D be increased by 50pence'

A vote took place

In favour: 6 Against: 7 The amendment fell.

A vote took place on the FGP recommendation 'that the level of Council Tax for Band D residents remain unchanged at £37.43, the same level as for 2016/17'

In favour: 7 Against: 4 The amendment was carried.


Resolved: That the level of Council Tax for Band D residents remain unchanged at £37.43, the same level as for 2016/17 and that a request to CWaC for a net precept of £213,426 be made.

125 Finance

- a **Resolved:** To approve the current account expenditure of £22,015.18 net and retrospectively approve the invoice for Crystal Sound and Light £1,648 net.
- b To note the current account income from 01.12.16 to 10.01.17 of £12,550.77.
- c To note the FairFX card expenditure of £440.85.
- d **Resolved:** That the reconciliation of the current account to the bank account statement dated 30.11.16 be agreed. The Mayor signed the balancing figures.

126 Fixed Rate Deposit Account (Co-op Bank)

Mayor's initial and date

 21 FEB 2016

Options for Fixed Rate Deposit Account investment, product due to be withdrawn by Co-op bank (current balance of £53,488.96) were tabled. Council requested that further information be provided for consideration at the next Finance & General Purposes committee meeting.

127 Complaints Policy and associated procedure

Resolved: To approve the revised complaints policy and associated procedure as contained in FC8/127

128 Procedure for electing a member by co-option

Resolved: To approve a procedure as contained in FC8/128

129 Other Items: None.

130 Next meeting noted as 21st February 2017, at St Thomas's Church, Parkgate.

131 Exclusion of the Press and Public

In order to decide if Council wished to consider the last agenda items were to exclude the presence of the press and public a vote took place.

For exclusion of the press and public: 11

Against exclusion of the press and public: 3

Resolved: To exclude members of public and press for the remaining items because of likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

PART 2: Items considered in the absence of the press and public

The Finance Manager left the meeting

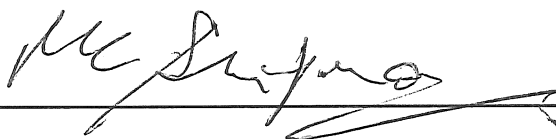
132 Appeal

- a The response of the working group established by Council on 18 October (minute 88) in response to a complaint from a member of the public was considered.
- b To consider appeal against response received to the complaint.

This item was deferred until the next meeting – see above item 123.

Meeting closed at 7.55pm

Signed _____



Dated _____

21 FEB 2016