

CALNE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary Town Council meeting held in the Large Hall, Town Hall on Tuesday 17th January 2017

PRESENT: Councillor T W B Rounds – **Town Mayor**
Councillor A J Trotman - **Deputy Town Mayor**
Councillor Mrs G J Ansell
Councillor Mrs M J Baggs
Councillor C M R Boase
Councillor Ms H E Canfer
Councillor D I Conway
Councillor D J Davies (*arrived at 7.17pm*)
Councillor A K Hill
Councillor R C MacNaughton
Councillor A S Muir
Councillor P M Redmond
Councillor D L Warnett
Councillor G P Widger

OFFICERS: Jeannette Young – Acting Proper Officer
Kevin Whitehorn – Head of Leisure & Events
Clare Harris – PA to the Town Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: Stuart Wilbur – Management Accountant

PRESS & PUBLIC:

There were no members of the public in attendance.

76/16 ELECT A PROPER OFFICER

It was proposed by the Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor Trotman, seconded by Councillor Mrs Ansell and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to elect Jeannette Young as Proper Officer for this meeting

The Town Mayor reminded members that whilst Jeannette Young has agreed to assume the role of Acting Proper Office in the Town Clerk's absence, she is not CILCA trained and has no legal or financial qualification in this sector. Jeannette may be unable to answer some questions from members at meetings however, she will take any unanswered questions away, seek advice and/or guidance and respond as soon as practicable.

77/16 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Dr Reid, Councillors Marshall, Stigwood and Venton.

78/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

79/16 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 21st November 2016, having previously been circulated, were approved and signed by the Chair.

80/16 DRAFT BUDGET 2017/2018

Councillor Mrs Ansell, Chair of Finance Working Group presented the budget with a nil increase in the precept. Cllr Mrs Ansell highlighted the £57,000 shortfall but confirmed that there are adequate reserves in place. Cllr Mrs Ansell did suggest that there may be additional unplanned expenditure this financial year which include the devolution of assets from Wiltshire Council, details of which are still unconfirmed and a potentially extended bill from the External Auditor's in relation to questions raised by a Councillor which are still being investigated.

Councillors discussed the budget in detail and raised the following:

- Concern was raised regarding Beversbrook in that some Councillors are still keen to see it cover its costs which it currently is not. It was noted that whilst Beversbrook is not and may never make a large profit, it is a fantastic sporting and community facility for the benefit for all. It was highlighted however that Kevin Whitehorn and his team are constantly seeking ways to increase footfall and generate more income. The installation of the 3G pitch is proving incredibly popular and will certainly impact positively in terms of rental income and secondary spend.
- Members raised concerns over the potential transfer of assets and services from Wiltshire Council not being accounted for in the budget. It was noted however that details and related costs are still unknown and as such it is not possible to include them in the budget as they are only assumptions at present.
- Questions were raised on the Campus project and the fact that the extension to the Community Hall is not progressing. It was clarified that Calne Town Council are not contractually obliged to pursue this further.
- The issue surrounding the overage was discussed and members were reminded that no agreement has yet been reached and negotiations are still underway. This will be brought back to Council when more information is available to enable members to make an informed decision or delegate authority. It was questioned why this has not been included in the budget. It was noted however that these are only assumptions at present and as such it is not possible to include them in the budget until costs are known.
- It was questioned that whilst the Strategic Plan has been approved by Council, it is not being used to drive the budget as intended. It appears instead that the budget is driving the plan. This needs resolving in the next budget. It was requested also that members have sight of the budget (irrespective of the tax base figures which come late in November) earlier in the process to allow for detailed discussion.

- Some members were happy to move forward with the proposed nil increase in the precept however there was a will amongst others to increase the precept to take account of a number of potential issues that may come forward in this financial year; Overage, Grant Thornton investigation, transfer of assets and services etc.

It was proposed by Councillor Widger and seconded by Councillor Hill to propose a 2% increase in the precept in light of the £57,000 deficit and the potential for unforeseen expenditure coming forward in the 2017/18 financial year. This was taken to the vote. The Town Mayor used his casting vote against this proposal. The proposal was not carried.

A counter proposal followed.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Ansell, seconded by Councillor Muir and

RESOLVED to approve the draft budget 2017/18 and set the precept at £1,162,003 with a nil increase in the Band D cost of £210.31.

This was taken to the vote. The Town Mayor used his casting vote for this proposal. The proposal was carried.

81/16 CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

Councillor Warnett questioned why the Finance Working Group minutes are held within Confidential Session. It was noted that there are a couple of items of the minutes which would not be appropriate for public viewing which is why this has been done this way. He also asked why minutes of Finance Working Group minutes are not regularly uploaded to the website. Councillor Mrs Ansell confirmed that this would be reviewed.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Ansell seconded by Councillor Boase and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that in view of the sensitive nature of the business to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public and press be excluded, and they are instructed to withdraw.

81.1 Minutes

Councillor Warnett requested a recorded vote on the approval of the Confidential Full Council minutes dated 21 November 2016.

COUNCILLORS	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTENTION
Mrs G J Ansell	√		
Mrs M J Baggs	√		
C M R Boase	√		
Ms H E Canfer	√		
D I Conway	√		

D J Davies	√		
S Denley			NOT PRESENT
A K Hill	√		
R C MacNaughton	√		
H R Marshall			NOT PRESENT
A S Muir	√		
P M Redmond	√		
Dr J Reid			NOT PRESENT
T W B Rounds	√		
R J Stigwood			NOT PRESENT
A J Trotman	√		
P A B Venton			NOT PRESENT
D L Warnett		√	
G P Widger	√		

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Ansell, seconded by Councillor Mrs Baggs and

RESOLVED to confirm as a correct record the Confidential Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 21 November 2016.

82.2 Minutes

Councillor Warnett was dis-satisfied with the discussions that took place within Finance Working Group relating to Minute 54/16 and requested that in future, issues of this nature are brought to Full Council in line with good governance and proper practice. Councillor Ansell explained the situation and the reason it was discussed on this occasion.

The Minutes of the Finance Working Group meeting held on 9th January 2017 were noted.

The meeting closed at 8.02pm.