



WARWICK TOWN COUNCIL

Court House
Jury Street
WARWICK
CV34 4EW
Tel: 01926 411694

Jayne Topham
Town Clerk

FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 11th JANUARY 2018

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor M Ashford
Councillor L Bolton (sub)
Councillor P S Birdi
Councillor Mrs D Da Cruz
Councillor Mrs M Grainger
Councillor G Guest
Councillor Mrs M Littlejohn
Councillor T Morris
The Mayor (Ex Officio)

Councillors present who are not on this committee. Cllr Mrs C Cross, Cllr Mrs L Bolton, Cllr R Edgington, Cllr J Holland & Cllr N Murphy.

232. Apologies: – None

233. Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests – None

234. Minutes of the meeting held on 11th October 2017 – minutes to be signed – it was resolved to sign the minutes as being a true record of the meeting.

235. Schedule of Accounts already paid/income received – October, November, December 2017

Following a discussion, it was resolved to approve the payments made for the months of October, November & December 2017. The Town Clerk will ensure that the source for Petrol is discussed with the Chauffeur.

236. Staffing – TC to update

The Town Clerk updated Councillors on Staffing matters. The two new recruits were settling into their new roles. Fiona is going to present at the next Economic & Tourism meeting. George has found a Sage course which he would like to complete to enable him to gain a formal qualification.

237. Calendar of meetings – It was resolved to accept the proposed calendar of meetings for 2018/2019.

238. Precept/budgets for 2018/19 – discuss and agree precept requirements (information already sent).

The proposed budgets were reviewed, and the following observations were made.

- WALC membership – it was resolved not to re-join in 2018/19 a further review will be carried out later in 2018.
- Discussions were held, and concerns raised regarding the lack of reserves.
- Discussions were held around the effects of inflation and rising costs
- Mayor’s car – the Town Clerk was asked to review leasing a car later in the year.
- Members Allowance – it was resolved to review the policy at the next F & P meeting. Concern raised regarding the Mayor receiving the Mayors Allowance and the Councillors Allowance.
- Allotments – it was resolved to review moving the individual allotments to being run independently.
- Town Centre Management – it was agreed to review support for retailers at the next E & T committee.
- It was resolved to reduce the expenditure budget for Christmas lights by £2K
- Budget surplus will start to build our reserve requirements.

A lengthy debate was held around the precept requirements for 2018/19. Consideration was given to budget requirements (where costs have been cut already), support that the Council wishes to give and the maintenance of the Court House. A precept increase of 6% was resolved following a proposal from Cllr Mrs MA Grainger, this was seconded by Cllr G Guest. Some Councillors felt that this was not sufficient, and some were more comfortable with 5%.

The 6% increase will be taken to the Special meeting on the 18th January 2018.

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