

REPORT OF THE POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING 19th JANUARY 2010

MEMBERSHIP & ATTENDANCE

Chairman: * Mrs J Worrall

Councillors: * Mr M Green
*Mrs M Hampton
*Mrs A Hayward
* Mrs M Jarrett
Mr R Kipps
*Mr K Morris
*Mr S Watkins

*Denotes members present
Also in attendance Cllr N Eve

RECOMMENDATION

1, DRAFT PROTOCOL BETWEEN OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

Members were concerned that there was one rule for Parish Councillors which then did not apply to MP's The Clerk advised that the document related to Officer and Members. At present Councillors had to abide by the code of conduct, however there was not such code for staff. Both the District and County Councils had adopted a similar document.

The Committee

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

That the draft protocol between Officers and Members be adopted as guidelines for referral only.

This was proposed by Cllr Morris, seconded by Cllr Mrs Jarrett and unanimously approved.

2. PRECEPT 2010/11

The Chairman stated that in principal everyone agreed with the aspiration to not increase the precept. This had proven a difficult task and a number of new budget headings had cropped up throughout the year, such as the requirement for Health and Safety. As the Council has now agreed to continue the grazing as a form of maintenance on the common the Council could now claim the bequest, however as the Open Spaces committee were currently in budget it seemed logical not to claim the legacy until the new financial year. This injection of income would mean that the necessary increases within the budget could be catered for. She also advised that due to the increase in the tax banding there was an opportunity to increase the precept slightly without increasing the amount the parishioners had to pay. The alternative would be to reduce the precept for this year, however in her view this was not a good idea as it would have a greater impact on next year. She reminded members that they should not look at the budgets in isolation year on year. A slight increase in the precept would allow an injection in to the depleted reserves which was good housekeeping.

Members discussed the budget in more detail, and discussed the differences between capital and revenue budgets.

The Committee
RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND
That the precept be increased to £338,500.00 for the municipal year 2010/11
This equates to a 2p per annum increase on a band D property.

This was proposed by Cllr Mrs Jarrett, seconded by Cllr Watkins and unanimously agreed

MINUTES

09/36 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Kipps

09/37 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

09/38 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings dated 17th November 2009 as minuted at Full Council and 1st December 2009 were agreed as a true and correct record.

09/39 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINTUES

There were no matters arising.

09/40 FINANCIAL COMPARISON STATEMENT 2009/10

The Committee
RESOLVED
To note the report

09/41 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Mrs Worrall advised the Committee when this issue was last discussed the Council resolved how a Councillor could be selected to office but not for how long. This proposal suggests that the period should be for a period of two years. Members generally agreed that the office of Chairman should be longer than a year. Some had concerns about the wording assuming there would only be two political parties and whilst this was currently the case it may not be the same in the future. Also the issue of continuity was discussed. Members generally felt that for the sake of continuity once the Chairman has served his or her two years they would stand down, but would still take a place on P&R committee as the out going Chairman, and allow the Vice Chairman to take over as Chairman for the next two years. At this time a new Vice Chairman would be appointed. The main political parties would take it in turns to select the Vice Chairman who would go on to be Chairman.

If the selected Chairman left the Council or decided to stand down the Vice Chairman would take their place for a minimum of two years.

The Committee
RESOLVED
That this proposal be put in a paper to Full Council for further consideration.

This was proposed from the Chair and unanimously approve.

09/42 DRAFT PROTOCOL BETWEEN OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

See recommendation 1

09/43 FIVE YEAR PLAN

The Chairman advised that at an informal meeting it had been agreed that the current office space was not fit for purpose and at some time in the future this issue would need to be addressed. The Chairman stated this would not be a quick fix therefore she was suggesting that once the new Council had been elected a working party be set up to look at the future of the parish office space.

The Committee
RESOLVED

That a working party be set up in the new Council to look at the options available to increase office space.

This was proposed by Cllr Morris, seconded by Cllr Mrs Jarrett and unanimously

09/44 BUDGET STRAGETY 2010/11

The Chairman advised that the next two reports were linked.

The Committee therefore
RESOLVED

To approve the revised budget figures as detailed in the report
That in principal the 2010/11 budget be agreed
That the expenditure for Repairs and Renewals and Capital funding be agreed.

This was proposed from the Chair and was unanimously agreed.

09/45 PRECEPT 2010/11

See Recommendation 2

09/46 CLOSE

The meeting having started at 8.00pm and finished at 9.15pm

These minutes have been checked by the Chairman.

Signature..... Date.....

These minutes were agreed as a true and correct record at the Policy & Resources meeting and signed by the Chairman.

Signature Date