

REPORT OF THE POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING 27TH JANUARY 2015

MEMBERSHIP & ATTENDANCE

Chairman: * Tony Edwards

Councillors: Harry Davies
Barbara Green
* Raj Khiroya
Rodney Kipps
* Martin Trevett
* Steve Watkins
* Jane White
* Jackie Worrall

*Denotes members present

Also in attendance: Cllr Barbara Dickens

Officers Present: * Yvonne Merritt - Clerk
* Claire James - Deputy Clerk

There were no members of the public present

RECOMMENDATION

1. REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

Disappointment was expressed that responses on the suggested changes to Standing Orders had still not been forthcoming from all Councillors to date.

The Committee

RESOLVED to Recommend

That the views of the 5 Councillors who had not yet responded be sought and the Standing Orders would then be discussed at an Extra Ordinary meeting of the Full council to be called between March and May 2015.

This was proposed by Cllr Jackie Worrall, seconded by Cllr Martin Trevett and carried unanimously.

2. PRECEPT 2015/16

Members discussed the four scenarios for the precept contained within the report and were advised that the auditor had checked the figures earlier that day. The background to the possible reduction in the Revenue grant from Three Rivers was discussed. The use of reserves was explained as a legal requirement to keep half a year's precept in reserves and the rest which was allocated to capital projects, repairs and renewals as listed in the report.

It was noted that the precept had been increased the previous year after no increases previously since 2009. It was noted that the increase the previous year had funded improvements to the War Memorial Hall which had driven an increase in bookings. Further improvements to the Hall planned for this summer would also support feedback from the initial analysis of the Community Plan returns. There were also likely to be other items from the Community Plan that the Parish Council would want to fund.

It was proposed that the Committee recommend Option 2 to Full Council that the precept be set at £413040 an increase of 2.36% or £67.93 per band D equivalent to an increase of £1.57 per annum or 3p per week, noting that Cllr Trevett had advised that the traffic light changes were unlikely to take place and the capital costs for this would not therefore be taken from reserves.

This was proposed by Cllr Jackie Worrall and seconded by Cllr Jane White

An amendment to this proposal was made to recommend Option 4 – to increase the precept to 403500 (an additional £3500 taken from the increase in the tax base) and take the remaining balance of 19540 from reserves keeping the precept the same £66.36 per band D.

This was proposed by Cllr Martin Trevett and seconded by Cllr Raj Khiroya.
The amendment was not carried by two votes to four.

The original proposal was then voted on and carried by four votes to two.

The Committee therefore

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

That the precept be set at £413040 or £67.93 per band D Property equivalent to an increase of £1.57 per year or 3p per week.

14/39 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies for absence from Cllrs Harry Davies, Barbara Green and Rodney Kipps.

14/40 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

14/41 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Committee

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting dated 2nd December 2014 be approved as a true and correct record.

14/41 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Christmas Festival / Late Night Shopping – the Parish Council had a stall at the Christmas Festival that took place in Decemebtr but had been one of only a few stalls with very little space allocated. Lack of organisation by the Business Association was disappointing given the effort that had been put in on the stalls.

Village Day – the Clerk advised that forms for this year’s Village Day had gone out in the last few days and already the office had received 9 stall bookings with payments.

Community Public Access Defibrillators (CPADS)- Members were advised of some of the statistics that supported the installation of these potentially life saving pieces of equipment and the potential for funding that was possible from organisations such as the British heart Foundation. It was agreed that there should be an article in the next edition of Chorleywood Matters and it was also suggested that something for inclusion in the Three Rivers Times be considered.

14/42 FINANCIAL COMPARISON STATEMENT

In response to a Member's question, the Insurance Contribution from the Royal British Legion would be followed up as appropriate.

The Committee

RESOLVED

To note the financial comparison statement.

14/43 REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

See Recommendation 1.

14/44 PRECEPT 2015/16

See Recommendation 2.

14/45 QUARTERLY CASH BOOK

The Committee

RESOLVED

To note the quarterly cashbook figures also noting that the figures had been audited that day.

14/46 PARISH POLL CONSULTATION

Members were generally in support of the recommendations made in the report with the following two exceptions:

- that an increase from 10 to 60 people for the trigger point to call a Parish poll was not sufficient for a parish the size of Chorleywood and suggested 100 would be a more appropriate figure
- that the proposal that only one poll can be called on the same subject in a 12 month period would be better set at a four year period

The Committee

RESOLVED

That a response would be made on behalf of the Parish Council by the Clerk supporting the recommendations with the two suggested amendments. This response would also be copied to Stephen Halls at TRDC who it was understood would be making a response on behalf of the District.

This was proposed by Cllr Martin Trevett, seconded by Cllr Jane White and carried unanimously.

14/47 GREEN EXPECTATIONS Sustainability and Climate Change strategy Draft for Consultation

The Committee

RESOLVED

To note the contents of this consultation document.

14/48 NOTICE BOARDS

The current notice board which was both Parish Council and Residents Association in the centre of the Village is wooden in construction and had been repaired following vandalism on a number of occasions and was now in a very sorry state. The Residents Association were interested in contributing towards a replacement and it was proposed that a third board be added for the Community. The proposal was for a three sided triangular board that could each display up to 12 sides of A4 and have the appropriate logos added. The proposed board was of metal construction which should be more vandal resistant than the current board. Planning permission would be required for the installation of such a board.

The Committee

RESOLVED

To agree in principle to the purchase of the three sided notice board outlined in the report subject to the further quotes being obtained. It was also agreed that a nominal charge be made for notices in the Community board of £1 per week

This was proposed from the Chair by Cllr Tony Edwards and carried unanimously.

14/49 CILCA UPDATE

There was nothing to report on this agenda item at this meeting.

Before this part of the meeting closed Councillors wished the Clerk well for her forthcoming absence.

14/50 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Committee

RESOLVED

That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest, that the press and public be temporarily excluded for agenda item 14 and they are instructed to withdraw.

14/51 ROYAL BRITISH LEGION LEASE AND CRICKET CLUB LEASE

Access to the minutes of this agenda item is denied until further notice.

14/52 CLOSURE

The meeting having started at 8.00 pm, finished at 10.05 pm

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