

Minutes of a Meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday 14 November 2018 at 10:00am in the Council Chamber of Beccles Town Hall

PRESENT: R Stubbings (Chair and Deputy Mayor)
N Brooks (Deputy Chair)
E Brambley-Crawshaw (Mayor)
R Kathuria
J B Walmsley

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs C Boyne, Town Clerk

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC: 0

1. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and approved from Councillors Birrell, G Elliott, Harris and Lever.

2. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OR ANY REQUESTS FOR THE GRANTING OF DISPENSATIONS IN RELATION TO ANY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were none.

3. TO ACCEPT FOR ACCURACY AND ADOPTION THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10 OCTOBER 2018

RESOLVED To accept for accuracy and adoption the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on Wednesday 10 October 2018

4. TO REVIEW THE CURRENT S106 AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY SCHEDULES

The clerk reported that the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) had been received for October and it totalled £1,373.61. CIL funds available for spending totalled £15,169.74. The clerk clarified that the Beccles Lido toilets contribution of £10,000 had been removed from the summary as this had been funded from grants as CIL had not been eligible to be used on that project given that there was a charge for the use of the facility.

5. TO CONTINUE ENGAGING THE SERVICES OF THE SUFFOLK ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS FOR THE 2018/19 AND 2019/20 INTERNAL AUDIT

The clerk reported that an efficient service was provided by SALC and given their role, they had first class knowledge of the compliance requirements for councils.

✓

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

To continue engaging the services of the Suffolk Association of Local Councils for the 2018/19 and 2019/20 Internal Audit

6. TO AGREE THE FINAL BUDGET FOR 2019/20 TO 2021/22 AND MAKE A RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL REGARDING THE PRECEPT LEVEL FOR 2019/20

The clerk explained that there was a deficit of £12,670 showing on the budget for 2019/20 based on the precept staying at the same level of £113,427. The estimated Band D equivalent figure had not been released by Waveney District Council at that point, but based on the figure of 3153.90 for 2018/19, the clerk had produced a report showing the impact of a 1% to 4% increase in the precept. It was noted that the Band D equivalent figure was likely to increase due to new houses being built. Last year, due to the increase in the Band D equivalent figure, if the council had increased the precept by approximately 1% this would have had no impact on the household council tax bill for a Band D property.

The clerk explained that the reason for the deficit of £12,670 was due to the inclusion of a budget of £20,000 relating to proposed internal alterations to the Town Hall. This was a one off item of expenditure and so 2020/21 was showing a surplus of £8,260 and 2021/22 was showing a surplus of £7,420.

A 1% increase in the precept was proposed, given that this was likely to have little or no impact on the annual council tax bill. It was generally agreed that it would not be appropriate to increase the precept significantly based on the 2019/20 budget deficit, given that 2020/21 and 2021/22 were showing a healthy surplus. A 1% increase in the precept would mean that the General Fund Reserve was 59.5% of gross expenditure, well within the guidelines of 25% to 100% of gross expenditure. It was noted that the council usually underspent on its budget.


RESOLVED To agree the final budget for 2019/20 to 2021/22 and increase the precept for 2019/20 by 1% from £113,427 to £114,561

7. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON COUNCIL LEASES

RESOLVED To receive the update on council leases

8. TO CONFIRM THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING AS WEDNESDAY 12 DECEMBER 2018 AT 10:00AM PROVIDED THERE IS ENOUGH SUBSTANTIVE BUSINESS REQUIRING ATTENTION

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 12 December 2018 at 10:00am provided there is enough substantive business requiring attention.

 12/12/18