

WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 15th February 2017

Present: Councillors R Gill (Chairman); J. Forster; M. Guest; J. Kane;
J. A. Laine; B O’Kane; G. Roberts

M. Jewell, Interim Clerk to the Council

Fiona Rooney

Members of the Public

617/17 Apologies For Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

618/17 Public Participation

There was no public participation – members of the public were in attendance but did not wish to speak

619/17 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

620/17 Suspension of Financial Regulations

It was reported that Councillor Laine had suggested that Standing Order No. 3 (Annual Estimates (budget) and Forward Planning) as the Council had not complied with the requirements. The Clerk read out Standing Order No. 3 and the Chairman proposed that standing Order No. 3 be suspended.

RESOLVED – That Standing Order No. 3 be suspended in the setting of the revenue budget and precept

621/17 2017/2018 Revenue Budget and Precept

The Council considered a report from Fiona Rooney, Director of Commercial and Corporate Resources (and S151 Officer) at Copeland

Borough Council and Marlene Jewell, Interim Clerk

The revenue Budget had been compiled based on available information and the report set down proposals for the 2017/2018 revenue budget and precept for consideration by the Council.

At the Council meeting on 26th January 2017 it was resolved that there would be a 0% increase in the precept for 2017/2018 which because of the increase in Band D properties generates a slightly higher income than 2016/2017 and amounts to £334,166.78.

The Council considered each aspect of the proposed 2017/2018 revenue budget. Based on the proposals and the 2017/2018 Council Tax Base this equated to a 0% increase in the Town Council Precept.

When considering the proposed revenue budget the Interim Clerk said that the insurance should be increased from £1,000 to £1,500 and that an amount of £2,500 should be included for elections. This left a shortfall of £3,000 which the Council agreed should be taken from the budget of £20,000 for Environmental Improvements leaving £17,000.

Following a discussion on the proposed budget of £30,000 for grants it was decided that this figure remain

During discussions on the proposed revenue budget the Council made the following resolutions:-

- (a) To ask Cumbria County Council to erect bus shelters on the Council's behalf particularly as the Town Council need the County Council's permission as landowner to erect bus shelters on pavements
- (b) That the Town Council should meet with the Regeneration Department of Copeland Bo to discuss issues such as bus shelters, barriers etc and to try and do a range of things for the town.
- (c) That there should be a separate Committee of the Council to deal with Britain in Bloom and that local shops should be contacted about this
- (d) That rules should be drawn up for grant allocation

622 /17 With regard to the revenue budget and the precept it was:-

RESOLVED - (a) to approve the proposed revenue budget subject to the following amendments

- (i) increasing the insurance from £1,000 to £1,500
 - (ii) including an amount of £2,500 for elections
 - (iii) to deduct £3,000 from the budget for Environmental Improvements to cover the shortfall created in respect of (i) and (ii) above
- (b) to approve the precept of £334,168.78 for 2017/2018
- (c) that the Interim Clerk inform Copeland Borough Council of the Whitehaven Town Council Precept for 2017/2018 to inform the setting of the overall Council Tax Requirement for 2017/2018

The meeting closed at 18.55

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to the amendments made by Full Council on 2nd March 2017



Chairman