

WHITEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 18th January 2018

Present: Councillors B O’Kane (Chairman); J. Forster; R Gill; J Laine;
C Maudling; J Rayson; G. Roberts

M. Jewell, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer
V. Gorley, Trainee Assistant Town Clerk

Members of the Public

864/18 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Gearing and
Councillor Lowrey

865/18 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

866/18 Public Participation

There was no public participation

RESOLVED – That this be noted.

867/18 Council Budget and Precept for 2018/2019

The Chairman said that there had been a few meetings where the budget had been discussed. At the Extraordinary Council meeting on 14th December 2017 which was specifically for the budget the Council following a discussion had agreed on a budget and precept but the amount payable could not be determined because the Council Tax figures were not available from CBC and that there would need to be a

further meeting to decide it. The Chairman gave some examples of other local Town Council precepts and said that everyone was expecting an increase in the precept

A discussion followed and the following comments were raised

- Councillor Maudling said that the percentage increase sounded high at 18.84 but it was less than £10.00 per year and thought it was important that the public be informed of that
- Councillor Rayson said she thought that the money being paid to the Rosehill Youth Theatre for cleaning costs was too high and the Chairman said this had been discussed at previous meetings and equated to approximately £23 per week
- Councillor Rayson said that she thought that the increase in the precept was too high at 18.9 when compared to the CBC increase of 1.95%
- The Chairman said that the Council had been ultra cautious when setting the budget before them and Councillor Roberts agreed
- Councillor Gill said that he thought that CBC might have given the Town Council some more assets
- Councillor Laine said that the Council was looking at a budget of £406, 974.07 and one third of that had gone out on staff salaries and that at least one member of staff should complete the CILCA qualification in the next year
- Councillor Laine said that she was pleased to see that the allotments had been reduced from £35,000.00 to £15,000.00 and thanked the clerks for taking the administration in house
- Councillor Laine said under Financial Regulations the Council was supposed to set a budget in a 3 year community plan and would like to see that happen now
- Councillor Laine said that she was shocked to see the ground maintenance for grass cutting at £12,500
- Councillor Laine referred to the cost of the Lengthsman at £26,800.00 and the Chairman said that this had been discussed at length and passed by Council
- Councillor Laine said she was not happy with £5,000.00 for civic hospitality and said that the Mayor's Allowance should cover any hospitality
- Councillor Laine said that the Events budget of £25,000.00 was too high and it would be better to halve or even third it

- Councillor Laine said that the £250,000.00 relating to new office accommodation had been saved over the last 3 years and not out of the precept and that the Council was hoping to have public toilets in the Council's office accommodation
- Councillor Laine said that the Standing Orders suggest the Council should have a 3 year plan so if the Council voted for the budget it would be going against the Standing Orders
- Councillor Laine said that she supported a lot of things in the budget but could not support a nearly 20% increase in the precept when there was no 3 year plan
- The Chairman said that it had been accepted and recognised that the budget had been set without a 3 year plan and it had been accepted that the Council would make sure that next year the budget would have to be set with a 3 year plan
- Councillor Roberts said that he had spoken to Pat Graham the Managing Director of CBC who had told him that CBC are currently preparing a 3 year plan for Copeland and that the Town Council should be careful not to duplicate anything

Councillor Gill moved that the budget and precept be approved and this was seconded by Councillor Roberts

Councillor Laine said that she wanted her vote recorded and the Chairman said that he would like a recorded vote for everyone.

A recorded vote was held and the result was as follows:-

Councillor O'Kane	For
Councillor Forster	For
Councillor Gill	For
Councillor Laine	Against
Councillor Maudling	For
Councillor Rayson	Against
Councillor Roberts	For

RESOLVED – That (i) the Revenue Budget and Precept of £406,974.07 shown at Appendix A and C be approved for 2018/19

(ii) the Chairman and the Clerk sign the Precept 2018/19 Form received from Copeland Borough Council to advise them of the approved Whitehaven Town Council Precept for 2018/19 to inform the setting of the overall Council Tax Requirement for 2018/2019

Councillor Laine raised a point of order and said she wanted it to be recorded that anyone who had voted for the precept had gone against Whitehaven Town Council's Standing Orders

868/17

Employment Tribunal

The Chairman reported that the Employment Tribunal case had been heard last week and that the Judgement would take up to 4 weeks before it was available. He said at this stage there was nothing to comment on until the Judgement was received and then it would be looked at by the Council

RESOLVED – That this be noted

The meeting closed at 6.25pm



Chairman