

**CLEVEDON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE**  
**COUNCIL OFFICES, 44 OLD STREET, ON MONDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2014 AT 7.30PM**

**Present:** Councillor C Francis-Pester Committee Chairman  
 Councillor, B Garner, C Hall, G. Hill, P. McNeill, J Middleton, T. Morgan, N  
 Pennycott, G Watkins, C Wring  
 Town Clerk – Ms P. Heath,

**FGP 14/402 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors, J Norton-Sealey (other commitment)

**FGP 14/403 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

There were no declarations of interest on items on the agenda

**FGP 14/404 EXAMINE, DISCUSS AND AGREE A BUDGET FOR 2014/2015 TO RECOMMEND TO THE COUNCIL FOR THE 2014 PRECEPT REQUEST**

The Chairman thanked those Councillors who assisted in the compiling and scrutiny of the budget over the last couple of months. The precept papers had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting and showed a precept increase of 45%. Members were reminded that the purpose of the meeting was

- To evaluate the budget proposed to ensure it reflected expenditure that will happen.
- To establish that the reserves held by the Council are clearly defined whether they are 'ring fenced' i.e legally required to be held, 'ear marked' for specific reasons or general reserves and that those general reserves are sufficient for any unforeseen expenditure that may arise.
- To ensure that the additional responsibilities and expenditure from the transfer of services from North Somerset council following their budget cuts are clearly defined.

Members noted that the General Reserves were for unforeseen items and that any Committee could ask the Council for additional funding should an item arise during the year that was unknown at the point of setting the budget. Members noted sometimes funding from other sources could be obtained to resolve issues.

Members went through the papers circulated and agreed the following adjustments

Cost Code 102 Photocopier –

An allocation of £5000 for the possible purchase of a new photocopier in 2014/2015 was deferred to 2015/2016.

Cost Code 104 Grants –

Marine Lake HLF matched funding support - was amended to £10,000 in 2014/2015 with the balance being allocated over the following 2 years.

Pier Trust capital/revenue support - members were reminded that this had not been required over the last two years as the Pier Trust were making sufficient funds to cover their annual expenditure. As the Councils policy is not to provide rollover support without need the amount of £10,000 was removed. The Pier HLF matched funding support would remain. Members noted that this was subject to them obtaining all the matched funding support to enable the project to proceed.

### Cost Code 105 Planning

The Chairman of the Planning Committee requested that the £300 be removed as the bill would not be presented to the Council.

### 501 Transport & Highways

There had apparently been some confusion by the Committee at the point of setting their budget in respect of unspent budgets. Once the adjustments, agreed with the Committee Chairman, had been included the budget was – Bus Shelter Clean and Maintenance at £4000, Bus Shelter Purchase at £4000, Nailsea & District Transport Grant at £8000 and Minor Road works £10,000.

The £9,000 in 2013/2014 had been allocated for the Moor Lane crossing which was a part 1 item for 15<sup>th</sup> January 2014. Members were reminded that the responsibility for Highways was North Somerset Council and that it was not the duty of the Town Council to financially underwrite any shortfall within their budgets, therefore the £10,000 was removed. The Chairman of Transport & Highways would work with the Committee to draw up a list of desired work which would be sent to North Somerset Council for consideration with planning applications community levy schemes.

### 700 Trusts

As trustees the Council has to underwrite much of the trust expenditure as income is limited, but the Council as Trustees has a duty to maintain the buildings and land under its control. Members discussed the proposed fencing of a section of Herbert Gardens to create a dog free area. Members were also informed by the Chairman that an issue may arise with damage to the rear wall of the Village Hall.

Proposed, seconded and RECOMMENDED to the Precept meeting a budget of £283,337.06 which, with the grant from North Somerset Council, gives rise to a precept of £263,075.49 a band d amount of £35.03.

Members felt this reflected the true cost of running the council and the additional expenditure caused by the effect of North Somerset cuts.

The main areas being

- the taking over of the Public Conveniences;
- supporting services over 3 years, this being year 2, of cuts in funding by NSC to children services;
- the taking over and enhancing the visual amenity of the town centre and the sea front

### **FGP 14/405 CHAIRMAN ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

In response to a question the Chairman explained to the Members the issue and problems arising from high electricity bills at one of the Town Council Christmas Lights connection points as the Queen Square lights have been attached without permission. Clevedon Pride has been invited in to discuss the issue.

### **FGP 14/406 DETERMINE PART I AND PART II ITEMS.**

It was explained that the recommendation would be presented to the Precept Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2014 but these minutes would not be presented until 12<sup>th</sup> March Meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.21pm

CHAIRMAN ..... DATE .....

fgp 8th january 2014 Subject to ratification by Council and Committee

17 March 2014