

CLEVEDON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PRECEPT MEETING OF CLEVEDON TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL OFFICE, 44 OLD STREET, CLEVEDON ON WEDNESDAY 25TH JANUARY 2017 AT 7.30PM

PRESENT: Chairman – Cllr J. Geldart
Councillors N. Barton, C. Blades, J. Cook, C. Francis-Pester, S. Hale, G. Hill, L. Little, J. Middleton, T. Morgan, A. Shopland, D. Shopland, C. Starr, G. Watkins, J. West
Town Clerk - Ms P Heath;

17/729 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors C. Hall (Illness), J. Norton-Sealey (Illness), K. O'Brien (other commitment) **RESOLVED:** That Council **ACCEPTS** the apologies and reasons given for absence.

17/730 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no formal declarations of interest on items on the agenda.

17/731 RECEIVE THE BUDGET RECOMMENDATION BY THE FINANCE & GENERAL POLICY COMMITTEE

A copy of the Finance & General Policy Committees recommendation had been circulated to all members with the agenda. The Chairman reminded members of the robust nature of the procedure to set the budget in that each committee discusses and agrees its budget, the details of which are included in the minutes, those minutes approved by the Council and that the budget in total is then discussed at length by the F & GP committee giving all members opportunity to input into that discussion and raise any issues or concern prior to the Precept meeting.

It was proposed, seconded and **REFUSED** by 13 votes to 1 that the Council should take £30,000 from the general reserves to pay off part of the Public Works Loan.

Members discussed in great depth the level of reserves held by the Council; they noted the recommended minimum level of reserves as specified by the auditors, who had not queried the Council's reserves in the last 8 years. Comment was made that the Council had a duty to keep its costs under review and ensure that money is well spent; it was noted that the budget and costs are reviewed at every meeting by the individual committees, and the FGP Committee acting in a scrutiny role. Comment was made about the amount of grants awarded, it was noted that the Council had a criteria and procedure for the awarding of grants and that any discussions should be made during the relevant meeting.

It was **AGREED** to hold a special Finance & General Policy meeting in August/September to discuss the 5 year budget and to give guidance to the Committees for the 2018/2019 budget.

17/732 VOTE AND SET THE PRECEPT REQUEST FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2017/2018

Proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** by 12 votes to 0 to set the Clevedon Town Council budget at £339300; A band D equivalent of £43.64.

17/733 CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

There were no Chairman's items for information

Meeting closed at 8.04 pm.

APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD

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