

HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the
FINANCE COMMITTEE
held on
9 JANUARY 2017

PRESENT: Chair: Councillor Brian Williams
Vice Chair: Councillor Glenys Diskin

Councillors: As per Council Meeting

Officers: Mrs S G Jones, Clerk & Financial Officer
Fran Griffiths, Administrator

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

As per Council meeting.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Councillor Glenys Diskin and Councillor Ve Amos declared an interest in Item 7, Budget 2017-18, Section 137 – Community Library Support and withdrew from the meeting in accordance with Standing Order no 89, whilst the item was under consideration.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on 12th December 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

Councillor Brian Williams said that £1600 remained in the budget for grants to community organisations and asked members to promote this within their communities.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The list of payments for December was presented.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the list of payments in the sum of £22,846.29 be approved for December.

118 Chair's signature_____

CLERK & FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT:

The Clerk advised that the Council's contributions to the Central Administration and Direct Maintenance Fund for the month of December were as follows:-

Central Administration	£3,881.31	Direct Maintenance	£4,879.12
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IT WAS RESOLVED: to receive the update.

BUDGET 2017-18

The Clerk had circulated the draft budget proposals for 2017-18 and the Council Tax Precept with the agenda for the meeting. Councillor Brian Williams outlined the key changes in the budget and the reasons for any increase or decrease within budget headings.

Staffing – a pay increase of 1% had been factored in together with increases to the pension contributions following the recent actuarial review.

Premises – there would be an increase in energy costs mainly due to the provision of a fit for purpose heating system within the Council's depot.

Administration – there had been an increase in this section due to the Clerk's intention to upgrade the office and depot computer provision. Councillor Emma Preece asked if any money had been put aside for new software obligations regarding the change in law with the encryption of personal files and Data Protection Act etc; the Clerk said she would look into this matter and report back accordingly.

Maintenance – there had been a proposal to increase this section mainly due to the Lighting Requisites and the need to invest in a five year capital programme of replacement LED heads (as discussed in Lighting Committee earlier). A small contingency for the Council's ageing fleet had also been included together with an increase in Trailer repairs based on the 2016-17 spend.

General –there had been a small reduction in the budget due to limited section 106 payments expected in 2017-18. The Clerk asked if Council would consider a subscription to One Voice Wales and outlined a number of benefits of this service.

Open Spaces – due to a successful phased programme of replacement play equipment over recent years this section had decreased.

Highways/Verges – there had been a slight increase to reflect the salary provision of the Litter Collector as discussed earlier. Councillors Judith and David Hough praised the excellent work provided by the litter picker and said that the village always looked clean and tidy.

Public Lighting – no change due to the limited progress of the column replacement programme awaiting transfers from Scottish Power.

Allotments – a contingency of £1000 had been included in case new sheds were required.

Section 137 – **Councillors Amos and Diskin left the room whilst this section was under discussion in accordance with Standing Order No. 89.** The Clerk distributed copies of the Community Library bank statement and proposed income and expenditure. Councillor Dave Mackie indicated that the accounts showed a healthy balance and in his opinion the organisation did not require additional financial assistance.

Following a lengthy discussion the Chair sought approval from Members for (1) annual support to the Community Library and (2) the level of funding to be included within the 2107-18 budget, noting that a provision of £2,000 had been proposed. Members voted overwhelmingly in favour of supporting the organisation on an annual basis.

In accordance with Standing Order no 45, Councillor Alan Diskin requested a recorded vote on the proposal to provide £2,000 financial support to the Community Library for the period 2017-18 the result of which was as follows:

Councillor	Decision
Joyce Angell	For
Helen Brown	For
Cheryl Carver	For
Clive Carver	For
Alan Diskin	For
David Hough	Abstained
Judith Hough	Abstained
Dave Mackie	Against
Emma Preece	For
Brian Williams	Against

The budget proposals included a Council Tax Precept for 2017-18 of £235,145. The Council Tax charge for an average Band “D” property would be £37.20 which represented an increase of £0.19p (0.5%).

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:

- i) the change in encryption laws and any financial implications to the Council be investigated
- ii) the subscription to One Voice Wales be not supported
- iii) the Community Library be supported on an annual basis
- iv) the 2017-18 financial provision for the Community Library be approved at £2,000
- v) the budget proposals for 2017-18 be approved and amended as recorded
- vi) the Council Tax precept be approved

120 Chair’s signature _____

BANK RECONCILIATION:

The Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 31st December 2016 would be tabled at the February meeting.

MEMBERS' INFORMATION ITEMS:

Councillor Joyce Angell stated the Council's reserves had reduced by half over the last five years and that the Council ought to be mindful of future expenditure and the need to keep a healthy balance.

Councillor Brian Williams said that he and the Clerk had recently undertaken a review of the Council's fleet to check the current condition of the vehicles and any future expenditure requirements, hence the contingency provision in the budget as discussed earlier.

Councillor David Hough conveyed his thanks to Councillor Brian Williams and his team on the production of the budget.