

## **HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the MEETING of the FINANCE COMMITTEE Held on 13 JANUARY 2014**

**PRESENT:** Chair: Councillor Judith Hough  
Vice-Chair: -

Councillors: As per Council Meeting less Councillor Dave Mackie

Officers: R N Barnes, Clerk & Financial Officer

#### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

As per Council Meeting plus Councillor Dave Mackie

#### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

There were none

#### **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:**

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 9 December 2013, be received as a true record and that they be signed by the Chair.

#### **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

There were none.

#### **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:**

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Accounts for Payment in the sum of £18,917.83 be approved.

#### **CLERK & FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT:**

The following matters were reported:-

- (a) The Council's contributions to the Central Administration and Direct Maintenance fund for the month, which were as follows:-

Central Administration      £4,645.78

Direct Maintenance          £3,768.61

- (b) Other relevant matters.

(i) The third stage payment of the Council's Annual Precept had been received on 31 December 2013.

(ii) Letters of thanks had been received from Bursary recipients and Hawarden Brownies.

### **BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2014/2015:**

THE Clerk referred to the report attached to the agenda which set out the Council's expenditure proposals for 2014/2015 in order to enable the Council to agree its Budget and thereby its Precept demand.

#### **2013/2014:**

He said that as could be seen from the Budget and Precept Analysis, the Council was predicted to bring forward balances of £156,800 to 1 April 2014. However, of this £20,000 was committed to the future replacement of Level Road Community Centre.

Expenditure during the year was predicted to be £347,215 and income £342,268.

#### **2014/2015:**

Proposed expenditure in 2014/2015 was £341,529 this included the gross cost of the Joint Services towards which an income of £88,091 would be received, giving a net expenditure figure of £253,438. This figure includes the £20,000 provision for the construction of a replacement Community Centre at Level Road, although it was considered unlikely that the contribution would be required in 2014/2015, as no firm proposals were currently in place and £16,000 in the Holding Account. Expenditure should therefore be £217,438.

Expenditure proposals for 2014/2015 had been set in accordance with current trends, inflation and Council decisions.

- **Joint Services:**

A full explanation of spending proposals would be submitted to the Joint Services Committee on which the Council has five representatives. However expenditure was proposed to decrease from £218,636 to £206,050, this Council's contribution therefore decreasing from £124,710 to £117,959.

- **General:**

This budget heading was proposed to decrease from a provision of £11,318 to £11,150.

- **Section 137:**

Expenditure on Section 137 items was proposed to decrease from £28,956 to £19,835 principally due to a reduced provision for supporting the Summer Playscheme programme which was now of a three week rather than five week duration and a reduced provision for Christmas decorations. The other headings had been kept mainly at their 2013/2014 levels.

- **Open Spaces:**

A budget provision of £24,697 was proposed for Open Spaces. This would enable the Council to support its decision to allocate £20,000 towards the Match Funding of play equipment at Mancot Lane and Gary Speed playing fields. The sum of £750 had been included for the purchase of painting materials for the fencing around the Gary Speed Playing Field. It was intended that, subject to the Committee agreeing this allocation, an application would be made for this to be carried out as a Probation Service scheme.

It was hoped that a number of the Council's playing fields would receive investment in 2014/2015 – 2015/2016 arising from Section 106 agreements, as identified in the report to the Playing Fields Committee earlier in the evening.

- **Highway/Verges:**

In total expenditure was proposed at the 2013/2014 level, with adjustments having been made to the provision for Litter collection and CCTV in line with their existing and known levels of expenditure for 2014/2015.

- **Public Lighting**

The budget provision had been increased from £19,300 to £20,300 partly as an inflationary measure for energy costs and partly to allow for additional replacements.

- **Allotments:**

No further capital expenditure was proposed on the Council's allotment site in 2014/2015. An allowance of £500 had been made to cover any costs arising from necessary repairs.

- **Holding Account:**

The level in the Holding Account was proposed to remain at £36,000, £20,000 of which related to monies held for the future replacement of the Level Road Community Centre.

- **Precept:**

It was proposed that the Council's Precept should remain at its 2013/2014 level of £225,000. Although the budget in total showed expenditure exceeding income by £13,814 it was unlikely that the £20,000 provision for Level Road Community Centre will be called upon nor would the provision of £16,000 in Reserves be used in its entirety.

Members were reminded that the Finance Committee had agreed to discuss Welsh Border Community Transport's request for replacement funding of £4,252 at the Budget Setting Meeting. If the Committee agreed to make a contribution a corresponding reduction could be made from the Reserves account without affecting the Precept.

Members thanked the Clerk for the work he had undertaken in producing the proposed budget.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:**

(a) that the budget and precept as set out be approved

(b) that the sum of £4,000 be allocated from the Reserves Account to support Welsh Border Community Transport.

(c) Flintshire County Council be advised that Hawarden Community Council's precept for 2014/2015 was £225,000.

**BANK RECONCILIATION:**

IT WAS RESOLVED: to receive the bank reconciliation to 31 December 2013, a copy of which had been circulated with the agenda.

**MEMBERS INFORMATION ITEMS:**

There were none.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm