

## HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of a **SPECIAL MEETING** of the **FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
held on **31 JANUARY 2011**

**PRESENT:** Chair: Councillor David Hough  
Vice-Chair: Councillor Ralph Small

**Members Present:** Councillors Veronica Amos, Helen Brown, Clive Carver, Alison Halford, George Hardcastle, Judith Hough, Kevin Jones, Mike Jones and Dave Mackie

**Officers:** R N Barnes, Clerk & Financial Officer

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Joyce Angell, Cheryl Carver, Alan Diskin and Glenys Diskin.

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

There were no declarations of interest made by Members.

### **BUDGET/PRECEPT 2011/2012:**

The Chair reminded Members that the meeting had been called to agree the Council's budget for 2011/2012 and thereby its precept demand and referred Members to the report which had been circulated with the agenda setting out the Council's budget proposal. The Chair invited the Clerk to take Members through the report.

The Clerk firstly referred to the situation in the current financial year 2010/2011 highlighting that expenditure during the year was predicted to be £283,357 and income £292,155 with balances of £169,791 to be carried forward to 1 April 2011. He reminded Members that the original budget figure for the year had been £342,699, however of this £36,000 was within the Council's Holding Account for a contribution to a replacement Community Centre at Level Road and Reserves, therefore the true level of anticipated expenditure had been £306,699 with an actual underspend of £23,000. The Clerk identified the areas of underspend, the principal one being £10,000 on the provision of allotments which had yet to progress and the remainder being fairly evenly spread across the remaining sub-headings.

With regard to 2011/2012 the Clerk advised that the anticipated expenditure, including the gross cost of the Joint Services towards which an income of £90,531 would be received was £338,480. This figure included the £20,000 provision for the construction of a replacement Community Centre at Level Road and £16,000 in the Holding Account. Net expenditure was therefore anticipated to be £214,309.

The Clerk then took Members through the various spending proposals as follows:

- Joint Services

The Council's contribution to Joint Services was expected to increase by 3% from £119,346 to £123,077. He said that a full explanation of the spending proposals had been submitted to the Joint Services Committee held on 20 January 2011 and had been approved.

- General

This budget heading was proposed to increase from a provision of £15,500 to £16,485, the principal reason being an increased provision for insurance in line with the actual costs in 2010/2011. He said that he was however in the process of inviting Zurich Municipal and Kane & Company to quote and was hopeful that this might result in a saving on the predicted level.

- Section 137

Total expenditure on this heading was proposed to reduce slightly from the current level although provision for youth support had increased to £5,825. This however had been compensated by small reductions to a number of the other sub-headings in line with current spending patterns.

- Open Spaces

It was proposed to reduce spending on this heading from its current level of £16,698 to £6,947. This had been achieved by savings of £2,275 associated with The Lodge which as it was to become the Council's office would be funded by the Joint Services Committee. He said that the Joint Services Committee had set aside £7,000 for alteration works associated with the relocation of which £4,350 would be off set by rental savings in the first year. In subsequent years the Joint Services Committee would make savings of approximately £5,800 of which almost 65% would accrue to Hawarden Community Council. A further saving of 7,000 resulted from a reduction in provision for new play equipment.

- Highways/Verges

This budget area was proposed to reduce by £1125 principally due to a reduction in the allocation for the Lengthsman in line with the 2010/2011 spending level.

- Public Lighting

This heading was proposed to increase by £580 due to an additional allowance being provided for increased electricity charges and provision for connections.

- Allotments

The 2010/2011 allocation of £10,000 had been retained in the hope of securing an allotment site in 2011/2012

- Holding Account

As mentioned earlier the level in the Holding Account was proposed to remain at £36,000.

- Precept

The Clerk said that the budget if agreed as set out would require a precept of £203,000 which would have the effect of increasing the Band 'D' element of the annual Council Tax charge by 0.87% (29p) to £33.69.

Members noted the various proposals and confirmed their support for them.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that Flintshire County Council be advised that Hawarden Community Council's precept demand for 2011/2012 was £203,000

The Meeting closed at 7.50pm.