

HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the **MEETING** of the **FINANCE COMMITTEE** Held on **12 JANUARY 2015**

PRESENT: Chair: Councillor Alison Halford
Vice-Chair: -

Councillors: As per Council Meeting less Councillor Helen Brown

Officers: R N Barnes, Clerk & Financial Officer

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

As per Council meeting plus Councillor Helen Brown

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Councillors Ve Amos, Clive Carver, Cheryl Carver, John Walker and Brian Williams declared an interest in Agenda Item No. 9 – Loan to Hawarden Institute.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 8 December 2014, 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 £42,883.06 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 £4,704.77

Direct Maintenance £3,594.68

- (b) Other relevant matters.

The third stage payment of the 2014/2015 precept had been received on 31 December 2014.

BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2015/2016:

The Clerk referred to the report attached to the agenda which set out the Council's expenditure proposals for 2015/2016 in order to enable the Council to agree its Budget and therefore its Precept demand.

2014/2015:

The report advised that as could be seen from the Budget and Precept Analysis, the Council was predicted to bring forward balances of £150,213 to 1 April 2015. However, of this £20,000 was committed to the future improvement or replacement of Level Road Community Centre.

Expenditure during the year was predicted to be £332,107 and income £337,822.

2015/2016:

Proposed expenditure in 2015/2016 was £390,748 this included the gross cost of the Joint Services towards which an income of £89,333 will be received, giving a net expenditure figure of £301,415. This figure included the £20,000 provision for the construction of a replacement Community Centre at Level Road, although it was considered unlikely that the contribution will be required in 2015/2016, as no firm proposals were currently in place and £18,000 in the Holding Account. Net expenditure should therefore be £263,415.

- **Joint Services:**

A full explanation of spending proposals would be submitted to the Joint Services Committee on which the Council had five representatives. However expenditure was proposed to increase from £206,050 to £209,885, this Council's contribution increasing from £117,959 to £120,552.

- **General:**

This budget heading was proposed to increase from a provision of £11,150 to £11,200.

- **Section 137:**

Expenditure on Section 137 items was proposed to increase from £19,835 to £26,963 principally due to an increased provision for supporting the Summer Playscheme programme and an increased provision for Christmas decorations. In addition the Council's contribution towards the Welsh Border Community Transport had been included in this section. In 2014/2015 it was met from the Council's Holding Account. The other headings had been kept mainly at their 2014/2015 levels.

- **Open Spaces:**

A budget provision of £53,700 had been included for this heading, an increase of approximately £29,000 on the 2014/2015 figure. However this increase was wholly due to the allocation of £48,500 for play equipment, all of which will be funded by Section 106 receipts.

The Council will not have to use any of its 'precepted income' for play equipment in 2015/2016.

The allocation for the Pavilion and receipts for its use from Hawarden Rangers had been predicted on the current basis.

- **Highway/Verges:**

In total expenditure was proposed to increase by £500 with adjustments having been made to the provision for Litter collection and CCTV in line with their existing levels of expenditure.

- **Public Lighting**

This heading had been increased by £6,650 to allow for issues arising from the structural and electrical surveys being undertaken in the last quarter of the current financial year. The gross cost of those surveys was shown in the projected allocated figure of £19,700 in the Contingency heading. However £9,400 will be invoiced to Shotton Town Council and Broughton and Bretton Community Council in relation to the surveys carried out in their areas. This income was included in the miscellaneous figure shown for 2014/2015.

- **Allotments:**

It was proposed to keep the budget allocation at £500, sufficient to pay the annual rent to Flintshire County Council (£200) and meet any miscellaneous repairs.

Allotment income of £2,500 should be received in 2015/2016.

- **Holding Account:**

This included the £20,000 earmarked for the construction of a replacement/new Community Centre at Level Road, Hawarden.

The figure in the Reserves element of the budget had been increased from £16,000 to £18,000. This small increase had been included as a precautionary measure as the Council may require to use some or all of the £18,000 if it proceeding with the transfer of assets from Flintshire County Council.

- **Precept:**

It was proposed that the Council's Precept should increase from £225,000 to £227,000. This would have the effect of increasing the Council Tax charge for an average Band D property by 1p due to the alteration of the Council Tax Base.

The Council's budget predicted that income for 2015/2016 including the Precept will exceed expenditure by £5,715. Given that the expenditure of £20,000 was included for the replacement of Level Road Community Centre it was likely that income will exceed expenditure by £25,715. However the Council needed to factor in the possible cost arising from the acceptance of assets transferred from Flintshire County Council for which no individual budget allocation had been made.

IT WAS RESOLVED:

(a) that the report and budget as proposed be accepted but that the provision for new Christmas lighting be increased from £3,000 to £5,000, funded from surpluses.

(b) that Flintshire County Council be advised that Hawarden Community Council's precept for 2015/2016 was £227,000.

BANK RECONCILIATION:

IT WAS RESOLVED: to receive the bank reconciliation to 31 December 2014, copies of which were circulated at the meeting.

LOAN TO HAWARDEN INSTITUTE:

Councillor George Hardcastle spoke of the improvements which had been carried out to the Institute Car Park and the cost which had been incurred by the Institute. He said that he was aware that the Community Council had provided a loan of £5,000 towards the cost but he considered that the Council should provide a more tangible contribution. Councillor Hardcastle proposed that £1,000 of the loan be converted to grant. This was duly seconded.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the £5,000 loan given to Hawarden Institute be amended to a loan of £4,000 and a grant of £1,000.

MEMBERS INFORMATION ITEMS:

There were none.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm