



Witham

town council

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MINUTES

Meeting of: **Estimates Sub-Committee**

Date: **Monday 18th December 2023**

Present: Councillors P. Barlow (Chairman)
E. Adelaja
S. Ager
L. Barlow
P. Heath

Also in attendance: Councillor J.C. Coleman
N. Smith (Town Clerk)
H. Andrews (Deputy Town Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES

No apologies for absence were received. Cllr B Fleet was absent.

2. INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

3. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There was no member of the press or public present.

4. COMMITTEE BUDGETS

(a) Summary Sheet

The proposed summary sheet showing each Committee budget line was received by Members. The Tax Base of £9,128.85 had recently been received from Braintree District Council so current figures were provided in the proposed summary for the 2024/2025 year.

(b) Admin & Central Services

The recommended Administration and Central Services Budget for 2024/2025 was received. Members discussed budget lines and agreed the proposals for the new year.

RECOMMENDED TO TOWN COUNCIL That the attached budget for Admin & Central Services for 2024/2025 be accepted.

(c) Community Committee

The recommended Community Committee Budget for 2024/2025 was received.

Members discussed the cost of the Town Council events and how successful they were. It was noted that the CCTV budget had increased due to the recent installation of more cameras throughout the town as part of the Safer Streets scheme.

RECOMMENDED TO TOWN COUNCIL That the attached budget for the Community Committee for 2024/2025 be accepted.

(d) Environment Committee

The recommended Environment Committee Budget for 2024/2025 was received.

It was noted that the Litter Bin budget line could be reduced as it had not yet been utilised in the current year and was suggested to reduce it to £1,000.

Members also discussed the high charges for the Town Park toilets which was currently under review. It was agreed to reduce this budget to £12,000

Member also agreed to reduce the proposed budget line for James Cooke Wood back to £2,000 as it would be difficult to facilitate an anniversary event.

RESOLVED That the Litter Bin budget line be reduced to £1,000, the Town Park toilet block line be reduced to £12,000, and the James Cooke Wood budget line be reduced to £2,000.

RECOMMENDED TO TOWN COUNCIL That the amended budget for the Environment Committee for 2024/2025 be accepted.

(e) Policy & Resources Committee

The recommended Policy and Resources Committee Budget for 2024/2025 was received.

The Town Clerk confirmed the introduction of a new budget line for the agreed Member's Grant Scheme for the new year.

RECOMMENDED TO TOWN COUNCIL That the attached budget for the Policy and Resources Committee for 2024/2025 be accepted.

(f) Planning & Transport Committee

The recommended Planning and Transport Committee Budget for 2024/2025 along with the Committee Business Plan was received.

Members noted that at the Planning & Transport Committee meeting of 12th December 2023 it was resolved that speeding issues should be tackled by purchasing a speed indicator device, explore the purchase of a Tru-Cam and promote speed awareness initiatives. A new budget line has therefore been included to make provisions for this.

Cllr J.C. Coleman arrived at 8.36pm.

RECOMMENDED TO TOWN COUNCIL That the attached budget for the Planning and Transport Committee for 2024/2025 be accepted.

5. **RESERVE BALANCES**

The proposed Earmarked Reserves were received and each reserve heading was discussed. Members agreed with the proposals for the 2024/2025 year.

RECOMMENDED TO TOWN COUNCIL That the attached reserve balances for 2024/2025 be accepted.

6. **PRECEPT**

The Precept Calculations for 2024/2025 were received.

Members considered making different adjustments to budget lines to review the final precept figure. The proposed budget finally agreed as a recommendation to FTC should enable the Council to fulfil the proposed business plans it had resolved to pursue in 2024/25.

RECOMMENDATION TO TOWN COUNCIL That the Precept for 2024/2025 of £942,473.57 be approved with a net increase in the Band D Property of £13.60 to £103.24.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.27pm

Councillor Phil Barlow
Chairman

HA/NS/19.12.2023