



ANDOVER TOWN COUNCIL

A

Minutes of Policy & Resources Committee

Time and date

8.10pm on Wednesday 16 January 2014

Place

Town Council Offices, High Street, Andover

Details of Attendance:

Cllr P North (Chairman) (P)

Cllr K Bird (Vice-Chairman) (A)

Cllr Z Brooks (P)

Cllr D Drew (A)

Cllr K Hamilton (A)

Cllr S Hardstaff (P)

Cllr K Hughes (A)

Cllr M Kerley (A)

Cllr G McBride (P)

Cllr V Pond (P)

Cllr R Shukri (A)

Also in attendance: Rachael Greenwood (Locum Clerk) (taking the minutes)

PR75/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs D Drew, K Hamilton, K Hughes, M Kerley and R Shukri.

PR76/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

PR76/13 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Policy and Resources Meeting held on 11 December 2013 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

PR77/13 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

PR78/13 DRAFT BUDGET 2014/2015

Test Valley Borough Council had confirmed that the Council Tax Base figure (Band D) for 2014/15 would be £12051. The Town Council would not receive the Council Tax Benefit grant in the next financial year (£12000 received in 2013/14).

It was agreed to accept the following decreases to Expenditure in the Draft Budget (Appendix A) from the Town Clerk which would save a further £600: Members Training & Courses £300 (£500), Public Building Hire £400 (£500), Staff Training £300 (£300), Postage £700 (£800).

A high proportion of expenditure was fixed costs but there could be scope to decrease Insurance costs.

RESOLVED: The Town Clerk be asked to investigate whether a more competitive insurance premium might be available before the next renewal date and to confirm whether public liability cover for the Saturday markets was included in the current premium.

Although the Election Costs in 2013/14 had contributed significantly to the current deficit, it was agreed to reduce the allocation for 2014/15 from £12000 to £8000. It was noted that the current level of house building in Andover would lead to an increase in the tax base for 2015/16.

There was general agreement that the Council Tax for 2014/15 would have to be increased to enable the Town Council to meet its commitments but every effort would be made to minimise the increase. It was proposed that the Council Tax be increased by 73p from £9.85 to £10.58 (+7.4%) and that the allocation for Election Costs be decreased by £400. A vote was taken and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: That the Council Tax be increased by 73p (7.4%), that the allocation for Election Costs be decreased from £1200 to £800 and that the amended Draft Budget based on a Precept of £127499.58 (Council Tax Base £12051) for the year 2014/15 be recommended to Full Council for approval.

The Pride of Andover Awards were very popular in the community and an application for a grant of £80 would be considered at the next meeting.

PR79/13 FINANCE

Payment of Accounts up to 14 January 2014

Accounts up to 31 December 2013

It was agreed to query with the Town Clerk items listed as not yet cleared and or not yet presented for the period 30 March - 1 August 2013.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10pm.

Chairman

Date