

ANDOVER TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of Policy & Resources Committee

Time and date

6.30pm, Tuesday, 10 January 2023

Place

The Lights, Andover

Details of Attendance:

Members of the Committee:

Cllr R Hughes (Chairman) (P)

Cllr S Waue (Vice Chairman) (P)

Cllr D Coole (A) Cllr L Gregori (P) Cllr N Long (P) Cllr R Meyer (A) Cllr M Mumford (P)
and Cllr T Reynolds (P)

Officers Present:

Gail Foster (Town Clerk)

Tor Warburton (Deputy Clerk)

Members of the Public: Unknown

Members of the Press: Unknown

PR 104/01/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors D Coole and R Meyer.

PR 105/01/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of Interests were declared by Councillors E Reynolds and N Long in Item 5 of the agenda.

PR 106/01/23 MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor N Long and seconded by Councillor M Mumford that the Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 22 November 2022 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

A vote was taken:

FOR – 5, AGAINST – 0, ABSTENTIONS - 1

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 22 November 2022, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The notes below are a precis of statements/questions. They are not recorded word for word.

Member of Public 1:

I would like verbal answers today and written confirmation to follow.

I note you plan to discuss the proposed Council budget, with the RFO suggesting no rise. This is commendable and should be adopted. However, might I suggest that multiple savings should be sought with a view to lowering the financial burden on the residents you all serve.

Which Councillors were involved in the creation of this draft budget? If all the Councillors were not involved, can the public be told why not?

In item 6, you plan to appoint members to a HR Sub-Committee. I can not see any Terms of Reference, which indicates what this Sub-Committee will be tasked with or measured against. Where is the accountability to be found and the transparency? Are the Terms of reference fit for purpose and who decided that?

Chairman's Response:

Full Council decided them some months ago, in September. They are all there in the public domain.

Member of Public 1:

Were the staff consulted on the need for the Sub-Committee or has the Council decided to take it upon themselves to impose their will?

I recall reading that the independent HR review instructed that the former HR Sub-Committee be disbanded. What has changed to justify it's rebirth?

The public look forward to reading your answers.

Chairman's Response:

The Town Clerk will advise you on the Sub-Committee.

Town Clerk:

It is recommended to have a HR Sub-Committee, to handle all employment matters relating to the Clerk without requiring all issues to be handled by Full Council.

Member of Public 1:

I could not find the Terms of Reference for the Sub-Committee. There was a discussion about it being reformed but not what the Terms of Reference for it would be.

Town Clerk:

They were in an agenda I read online. The Panel would be reformed on the existing terms. We can send you the version that currently exists and ensure it is on the website. It may not be done in the next four weeks but I will be working on it as fast as I can.

DRAFT BUDGET FOR 2023/2024

The Town Clerk gave the Members an overview of the Council's accounts using various reports, explained how the funding is made up and confirmed that the Operational and Earmarked Reserves were correct with no missing funds. The Council is in a very good position.

Members considered the proposed Draft Budget for 2023/2024, to be recommended to Full Council on 25 January 2023 for final consideration.

Community & Events Expenditure:

It was proposed by Councillor N Long and seconded by Councillor M Mumford that:

- The Expenditure Budget Lines 4700/3 to 4190/1/1 inclusive, be amalgamated into a singular Grants Budget Line.
- The £10,500.00 Youth Support funds, the £10,500.00 Grants funds and £3,150.00 Emergency Funding funds be amalgamated and put into the singular Grants Budget Line.
- The singular Grants Budget Line total becomes £24,150.00.

A vote was taken:

FOR – 5, AGAINST – 1, ABSTENTIONS – 0

RESOLVED: That:

- **The Expenditure Budget Lines 4700/3 to 4190/1/1 inclusive, be amalgamated into a singular Grants Budget Line.**
- **The £10,500.00 Youth Support funds, the £10,500.00 Grants funds and £3,150.00 Emergency Funding funds be amalgamated and put into the singular Grants Budget Line.**
- **The singular Grants Budget Line total becomes £24,150.00.**

Assets Expenditure:

It was suggested that Budget Line 4210/7 heading be amended to read “Telephone”

Allotments Expenditure:

Members agreed that the Allotment Toilet provision would be added to the next Full Council agenda, to discuss and agree whether the toilets would be removed completely or kept on the Allotment sites. The Budget would then be amended either way.

Summary Expenditure:

It was proposed by Councillor S Waue and seconded by Councillor N Long that a nil increase in the 2023/2024 precept, raising a precept of £361,801.70 (three hundred and sixty one thousand, eight hundred and one pounds and seventy pence) based on a tax base of 17,444 Band D Equivalent Dwellings, be accepted and recommended to Full Council for approval. Councillor L Gregori requested recorded vote.

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTENTION
R Hughes	X		
S Waue	X		
L Gregori	X		
N Long	X		
M Mumford	X		
E Reynolds	X		
TOTAL	6		

RESOLVED: That a nil increase in the 2023/2024 precept, raising a precept of £361,801.70 (three hundred and sixty one thousand, eight hundred and one pounds and seventy pence) based on a tax base of 17,444 Band D Equivalent Dwellings, be accepted and recommended to Full Council for approval.

On behalf of the Members of the Policy & Resources Committee, the Chairman gave thanks to the Town Clerk and Deputy Clerk, for their hard work with the Budget.

PR 109/01/23 HR SUB-COMMITTEE

The following Councillors were put forward to be members of the HR Sub-Committee: Councillors R Hughes, M Mumford, L Gregori, E Reynolds and S Waue.

It was proposed by Councillor R Hughes and seconded by M Mumford that Councillors R Hughes, M Mumford, L Gregori, E Reynolds and S Waue, be appointed as Members of the HR Sub-Committee.

A vote was taken which was unanimous.

RESOLVED: That Councillors R Hughes, M Mumford, L Gregori, E Reynolds and S Waue, be appointed as Members of the HR Sub-Committee.

PR 110/01/23 COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

Members noted the Committee Work Programme.

No items were requested to be added.

PR 111/01/23 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Members noted that the date of the next meeting would be **Tuesday 21 February 2023, at The Lights, starting at 6.30pm.**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.14pm.