



Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance & Grants Committee Via Microsoft Teams At 7.00pm on Tuesday 10 December 2020

Those Present:

Members with voting rights: Town Mayor Cllr John Stewart,
Cllrs: Amanda Stott, Angela Williams, Mark Fearn and Jon Weston.

Members without voting rights: Cllr James Nicholas and Cllr Alex Douglas-Kane

Officers: David Naylor Town Clerk and Jennifer Brockbank RFO

Chair: Cllr Jon Weston

Two members of the public were in attendance.

1. To receive and approve apologies for absence:

Cllr Roland Edwards

2. To receive any declarations of Interest:

There were none

3. To receive and confirm the Minutes of the meeting held 10/11/20

The Committee **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes as a correct record.

4. To receive the notes from the Finance & Grants Working Group 16/11/20

The Committee confirmed they had read the notes and details of the changes that the group had made to the budget and were happy to approve the report.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to approve the notes and the changes that the group had made to the budget. This included reducing earmark reserves by £25,299 and cuts to the various other budgets. [Approved notes and budget attached.](#)

5. To review the Budget, Earmark Reserves, Balances and Precept Requirements 2021-2022

The Committee discussed the budget and the work of the Finance & Grants Working Group was accepted. Additional projects had been included within the figures and it

was noted that these had not been approved by the Council and if it was later decided that these projects were not suitable or feasible the funds would be placed back into general reserves. The Committee also acknowledged that where projects and events that had been organised by external organisations eg Well Dressing, Bikefest, the Market, Transition Bollington etc that had previously been included in the budget, the organisations would now be asked to apply for a grant through the Council's grants system. The grants budget had been increased to accommodate this.

The Council had already resolved to keep the precept at £58 bringing in a total precept of £185,743. The new budget required £35,394 to be taken from balances with the sum required of £221,137. The estimated balance for 31/3/22 was £98,464. It was noted that if the budget remained the same for the period 1/4/22-31/3/23 reserves would have to be used again and this situation was not sustainable. However, the situation could improve if the income from the Civic Hall returned to pre Covid-19 levels. The Facilities & Infrastructure Committee was yet to discuss the future of the Town Hall and the Personnel Committee was undertaking a staff restructure with a recommendation expected in January, both of which may affect future budgets.

The Committee resolved to **RECOMMEND** that Council approve the budget which included the provision for additional projects subject to Council approval. The total sum required was £221,137. The precept would be set at £58 per band D property bringing in £185,743, reserves would be used £35,394. [Approved Budget attached](#).

6. Date of Next Meeting: May 2021