



HOLT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Budget Meeting of Holt Town Council on Wednesday 11th January 2017 at Holt Community Centre

PRESENT

Cllrs D Baker (Chair), Allison, Baker, Batey, Chapman, Hill, Hipperson, Moore, Prior,
Smith, Traynier,
Elaine Oliver Town Clerk
0 Member of the public

1. APOLOGIES

Cllrs P Reed & R Percival

2. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received

The meeting was informed that the proceedings were being recorded.

Public participation

No public present

3. TO CONSIDER THE BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2018

The attached budget was presented by the Clerk.

The following points were made

- The personnel committee will meet to discuss staff increases, in the coming weeks.
- It was discussed, in passing, the gritting of paths and it was agreed that in bad weather we would only grit the Letheringsett car park and the toilets, and the Memorial garden would remain closed. This was unanimously agreed.
- NCC is always threatening not to fill grit bins in the future.
- It was agreed we need to look at land to extend the cemetery.
- Cllr Moore stated the earmarked fund for play equipment was inadequate. On a PROPOSAL from Cllr Moore, SECONDED by Cllr Prior, it was agreed that the £26,000 S106 payment coming from H01, that has already been paid from TC reserves, is allocated from this fund and be called sports and leisure facilities/equipment.
- Cllr Allison was concerned about earmarked reserves and felt we didn't need to allocate all the funds. He felt we should have reserves and pull from them when needed.
- Cllr Baker felt the purpose of earmarked reserves is so the money we are getting back is not lost.
- A recorded vote was requested and taken
Results as follows:-
Cllr Chapman Abstained

Cllrs Allison, Traynier, Payne, Baker, Prior, Smith, Hipperson, Batey and Moore
For
Cllr Hill Against

- Cllr Baker checked that there was no counter proposal.
- Cllr Hill was concerned that this was a large amount for one fund when we had other plans for the future.
- It was agreed that the allocation of £1000 for 2017/8 would not be required if the £26,000 was allocated.
- Cllr Payne felt that some equipment/play areas will come from future S106 payments.

The attached budget was presented by the Clerk, after some amendments and salaries to be reviewed, the attached budget was PROPOSED by Cllr Batey for adoption, SECONDED by Cllr Traynier, agreed unanimously.

4. AGREE PRECEPT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2018

Points were made as follows

- Cllr Hill was concerned the precept will have to go up 25% to break even, and nothing in this budget has been allowed for the hub scheme
- Cllr Moore reported that the £26000 for play equipment will not be a year on year project.
- Cllr Payne reported that housing benefit is not split off from the precept so potentially the bills will show a higher increase than the T C budget increase.
- Cllr Payne also reported that the base figure of other towns is higher because we have kept the precept consistently low.
- Cllr Baker reported we need to keep the town centre strong and not become like other towns.
- Cllr Allison felt the important thing was the figure rather than the percentage.
- Cllr Batey felt the whole town benefits from an increase in the precept.
- Cllr Prior feels in the future we may need a professional to encourage businesses to Holt to provide employment.

After further discussion it was PROPOSED by Cllr Traynier , SECONDED by Cllr Batey to increase the precept by 25%. 11 for, 2 against,

Cllr Hill said he would have liked to have thought we could be more adventurous and put forward a 50% increase so we didn't stand still.

Cllr Traynier felt we could probably put it up 25% next year and put it up year on year. Cllr Payne felt the problem was that it was not put up last year.

Cllr Prior enquired why the 50% increase had not been proposed and Cllr Hills reply was because everyone assumed he would not want an increase and sometimes you assume wrong, he felt that being prudent in the past is seen as a criticism.

Cllr Hill felt we could have made some savings, which we have not done, which has robbed us of putting something in the kitty for the hub, so he was disappointed.

Cllr Batey replied he does not assume anything and unless a proposal was put forward he couldn't comment.

Cllr Baker felt everyone had an opportunity to put forward their position.

The meeting was duly closed.

Chairman.....Date.....