

Minutes of a meeting of the POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, following a meeting of the Planning & Highways Committee on Monday 9 January 2023.

PRESENT:

Cllr. A. Stuart (Chair), S. Ashton, M. Best, T. Bond, N. Draycott, K. Head, D. Livesley, J. Morris, J. Nathan, A. Samuel and D. Wakeman.

In attendance: Town Clerk K. Sheehan and two members of the public.

OPEN FORUM

No members of the public were in attendance.

21 TO NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

22/23

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Maxwell (personal).

22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

22/23

None.

23 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

22/23

It was AGREED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee held on Monday 10 October 2022 be APPROVED.

24 CLERK'S PROGRESS REPORT

22/23

None.

25 FINANCE

22/23

a. To receive the third quarter income and expenditure report

Noted, no questions raised.

b. To receive a report on the predicted status of Earmarked Reserves as at 31 March 2023 and recommended transfers to support the budget for 23/24

Noted, no questions raised. The Clerk confirmed recommendations on transfers would be made closer to the end of the financial year.

c. To receive a report on the estimated level of general reserves as at 31 March 2023

Noted, no questions raised.

d. To review the draft proposal for award of community grant applications for 23/24 for recommendation to Full Council

Councillors queried the application received from the Shed and the Clerk was asked to resend it. Cllr. Stuart noted that each applicant had been assigned a smaller grant amount and the remaining funds

retained within the grants budget line in order to be able to assist any group facing financial hardship during the financial year.

The overall grant allocation was AGREED for recommendation to Full Council (and the amount awarded to the Shed would be clarified and noted at Full Council, but would have no overall impact on the budget line for grants).

e. To consider the 2023/24 draft budget and associated precept calculation for recommendation to Full Council

Councillors considered the budget with the Chair noting that it had been produced over many months with input from all councillors, who had been mindful that the increasing costs of contractors, materials and utilities were the same pressures facing the taxpayer. She noted that efforts had been made to reduce costs where possible, reducing the number of printed newsletters, a modest coronation celebration in accordance with the King's own plans and an ongoing saving realised through a reconfiguration of the council's office arrangements to give up a leased property and associated expenditure.

The 2023/24 draft budget and precept calculation was AGREED without change for formal recommendation to Full Council.

26 MATTERS OF REPORT

22/23

None.

27 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

22/23

Monday 13 February 2023, following the Planning & Highways Committee meeting in the Council Chamber, Town Hall.

Signed:

Dated:

Pr09Jan2023