



Heybridge Parish Council

Minutes of the **BUDGET COMMITTEE OF THE PARISH COUNCIL** held on **TUESDAY 6th DECEMBER 2016** in The Claydon Room, Plantation Hall, Colchester Road, Heybridge.

PRESENT

- Chairman:** Prof Lew Schnurr
- Councillors:** Michael Edwards
- Officers:** Laurie Wiebe – Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer to the Parish Council
John Williams – Internal Auditor
- Absent:** Cllr Richard Perry
- Members of Public:** None

In the Chair: Cllr. Prof. Lew Schnurr

The meeting started at 10:05am.

It was noted the meeting would not be filmed or recorded.

16/319 **Apologies for absence**
There were none.

16/320 **Chairman's Announcements**
No announcements.

16/321 **Minutes**
The minutes of the meeting of the Budget Committee of the Parish Council held on 9th November 2016 were received.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Budget Committee held on 9th November 2016 be approved and confirmed.

16/322 **Declarations of Discloseable Pecuniary Interests, Other Registerable Pecuniary Interests, Registerable Non-Pecuniary Interests**
None.

16/323 Public Participation session

None present.

16/324 2017-2018 Budget

Members considered the draft budget for 2017-2018 financial year to be recommended to full Council.

It was noted that full Council were not able to discuss the draft budget prior to the meeting and therefore the Committee could only submit the draft budget to full Council.

It was noted that:-

- According to Financial Regulations, the reserves should be half of the precept. The budget allows for a reserve of £108,440 of which £31,000 has been committed. Therefore the uncommitted reserves would be £77,440 which was very much less than half the precept. It should be noted that it was anticipated that there will be a deficit of £31,950 for 2016/17 which would already reduce the uncommitted reserves at 31st March 2017 below required level (from £122,440 to £108,440) hence the recommendation of a balanced budget.
- Grass cutting and ground maintenance – the Council are currently out to tender for grounds maintenance and therefore the contingency budget of £40,000. The current budget was based on a contract entered into 5 years ago. Therefore the anticipated increase was based on the difference between proposed budget and those of 5 years ago.
- Playground Equipment – quotes were being sought to install new play equipment for Plantation Hall play area therefore the budget of £20,000;
- Other items have marginal increases or remained the same as current reforecast financial year.

The Committee **RECOMMENDS** that full Council agree the draft 2017/18 budget.

16/325 2017-2018 Precept

Members considered the precept for 2017-2018 financial year based on the draft budget.

Total Expenses = £256,200

Minus Income = £38,500

Draw from Reserves = £0

Total Precept = £217,700.00

Percent Increase in Precept 2017/18 = 29.6%

Band D equivalent = £76.17

It was noted that the current Band D equivalent is £59.48 therefore it will be increased by £16.69 which equates to £1.39 per month.

The Committee **RECOMMENDS** that full Council agree the precept 2017/18 be £217,700.

16/326 Future Meeting Dates

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 15th December 2016 at 7:00pm.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10:46am.

Chairman