

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE OF TRING TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, THE MARKET HOUSE, TRING ON MONDAY 2nd NOVEMBER 2015 AT 8:00p.m.

Present: Councillors: Mrs P. J. Hearn (Chairman)
Mrs O. Conway
S. Hearn (ex officio)
M.Hicks (ex officio)
P. Hills
Mrs R. Ransley (Subs for Cllr Townsend)

Also present: Cllr H. Grace
Cllr G Wilkins
Mr M. Curry, Town Clerk
Mrs D. Slade, Deputy Clerk

0 members of the press & public

18003. APOLOGIES

Cllrs N. Hollinghurst (prior appointment) & C. Townsend (work commitment) gave there apologies.

Resolved: To accept the apologies for the reasons given

18004. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations were made in relation to item 18009 Precept and Budget 2016/17 should the discussion relate to specific lines of expenditure/income:

Cllr Mrs P. Hearn –	A disclosable prejudicial interest in Tring Market Auctions
	A personal interest in Tring Youth Project
Cllr Mrs O. Conway	A personal interest in Tring Youth Project
Cllr S. Hearn	A prejudicial interest in Tring Together
	A disclosable prejudicial interest in Tring Market Auctions

18005. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 1st June 2015 were a true record and could be signed by the Chairman

18006. MATTERS OF REPORT FROM THE MINUTES

Nothing to report

18007. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

No correspondence received

18008. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

18009. PRECEPT AND BUDGET 2016/17

The Clerk outlined the process used to prepare the baseline budget, the assumptions used and the purpose of the baseline budget as a starting point. There was a wide ranging discussion on the tasks facing the Council. The following were agreed:

- The need to make an annual allocation to cover the cost of elections
- The need for a financial contingency for opposition to aspects of the LA5 Master Plan
- The local delivery of clinical and other community services needs to be safeguarded and extended to accommodate the growth in population. The long term goal for the site of the Nora Grace Hall should be a community hub providing such services as well as a community space
- The leak in the roof of Market House needs to be investigated and fixed
- The implementation of the Town Plan remains a priority, and the Council's warden services strengthened to reflect the changes in the District and County Council service delivery
- To make the necessary and sufficient provision for the above on a sustainable basis required an increase in the precept to cover the cost of inflation

RESOLVED: To recommend to Council a precept resulting from a 2% increase in the Band D rate

18010. FINANCIAL REGULATIONS:

The Clerk explained the reason for the specific change to the Financial Regulations due to a change in EC Procurement Rules. He then outlined possible changes received from Cllr Townsend. These were adopted except with regards to paragraphs 6.7/8.1 & paragraph 11.1 a ii. with the Clerk to amend the wording accordingly.

Members thanked Cllr Townsend for his work.

RESOLVED: To modify the Financial Regulations as proposed

18011. TOWN WARDEN'S HALF-YEARLY REPORT

Due to illness the report was not available and the item deferred

18012. INFORMATION OFFICER'S REPORT

The Members considered the circulated report. They thanked the staff running the Centre for their support. The need for a disclaimer on the website with regard to external links was identified.

RESOLVED: To note the report

The meeting ended at 8:50 p.m.

Chairman