

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE OF TRING TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, THE MARKET HOUSE, HIGH STREET, TRING ON MONDAY 5<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2018 AT 8:00 p.m.**

**Present:** Councillors: Cllr S. Hearn (Chairman)  
Mrs O. Conway  
Mrs P. Hearn  
M. Hicks (ex officio)  
N. Hollinghurst  
C. Townsend  
G. Wilkins

**Also present:** Cllr J. Bowden  
Cllr Mrs R. Ransley  
Mr M. Curry, Town Clerk

0 members of the public

**19435. APOLOGIES**

All Members present

**19436. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

**19437. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 11<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2018**

**RESOLVED:** To accept the Minutes as presented and for the Chairman to sign them.

**19438. MATTERS OF REPORT FROM THE MINUTES**

The Clerk reported that the investigation into alternative investments was underway and that the external auditors had not questioned the Council's reserve policy.

**19439. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

None

**19440. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No members of the public present

**19441. THE BUDGET & PRECEPT 2019/20**

The Clerk explained the report, circulated prior to the meeting, which contained a draft baseline budget with supporting analysis, a forecast of the reserves at the end of the current financial year, and initial suggestions for items of discretionary expenditure for possible inclusion in next year's budget.

During the discussion of the report the following points were made:

- CIL funds were excluded from the analysis. The possible use of CIL funds would be considered at the meeting of the Town Plan & Infrastructure Committee to be held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018. This would be reported to Council in December with this Committee's recommendations.
- A statement on the Council's liabilities to be presented with the draft budget (The Council's only long term liability is the borrowing from the Public Works Loan Board)

- Cllr Hollinghurst, in his role as local County Councillor, warned of the intense pressure being placed upon local authority finances to the point that long standing provisions were at risk if they were not a statutory obligation
- The expectation is that in the next financial year Dacorum Borough Council's current policy on grant support will be continued, but this cannot be relied upon in the future
- The assumption of a 2% increase in the precept was approved
- The suggested items for inclusion in the budget were approved subject to:
  - A possible increase in the allocation for pipework replacement at Duckmore Lane allotments once more precise cost details are obtained
  - Consideration be given to a second-hand purchase of a scythe mower
- The Chairman of Committees were reminded to bring forward any items for possible inclusion in the budget
- The possible purchase of a vehicle to support the work of the Town Warden to be explored further and presented outside the budget process as a potential investment. There was general support for procuring an electric vehicle subject to further detail

**RESOLVED:** To recommend to Council (i) a precept based on a 2% increase in the Band D rate (ii) to include the additional items of expenditure as qualified above

#### **19442. OLD SCHOOL YARD – INCOME & EXPENDITURE**

The Clerk explained the analysis of income and fees circulated prior to the meeting. He read out minutes of the Buildings & Assets Committee meetings held in February and August 2003 that referred to the agreement between Tring Town Council and Dacorum Borough Council with regard to Old School Yard, but neither the Town Council or Dacorum Borough Council have a copy of that agreement.

The Clerk will use the Market Place car park project as an opportunity to formalise the situation.

**RESOLVED:** To note the report.

#### **19443. TO CONSIDER DRAFT POLICIES & RISK ASSESSMENTS FOR:**

- (i) Safeguarding for Tring Town Council and Tring Youth Project
- (ii) Current Procedures for Child Protection
- (iii) Protocol on recording and filming of Council and Committee meetings
- (iv) Treasury and Investment Policy
- (v) Reserves Policy of Tring Town Council

Each policy was discussed: minor amendments were put forward and accepted.

**RESOLVED:** To adopt the policies subject to the agreed amendments

#### **19444. TOWN WARDEN'S HALF-YEARLY REPORT**

The report was circulated prior to the meeting.

**RESOLVED:** To note the report

**19445. INFORMATION OFFICER'S REPORT**

The report was circulated prior to the meeting. The Clerk showed a graph of the trend over the last two years that showed the level of enquiries was relatively static with peak periods coinciding with school holidays.

An analysis was requested to show when enquiries were made throughout the day.

**RESOLVED:** To note the report

The meeting ended at 9:19p.m.

Chairman