

**WIRKSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL – FINANCE, BUILDINGS & PERSONNEL
COMMITTEE 16 JANUARY 2017 at 6:30pm**

FBP094/16 Present: Cllr A Clamp (Chairman), Cllr A Pollock Cllr P Taylor and Cllr C Whittall.

In attendance: Paul Jennings (Town Clerk)

FBP095/16 Apologies: Cllr I Fisher, Cllr G Gratton, S Surgey (asst Clerk)

FBP096/16 Variation of Order of Business: none

FBP097/16 Members' Pecuniary Interests in Agenda Items: None declared.

FBP098/16 To confirm the accuracy of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance Buildings & Personnel Committee held on 12 December 2016

The minutes of the meeting of the Finance, Buildings & Personnel Committee dated 12 December 2016 were confirmed as a correct record.

FBP099/16 Monthly Budget Balance:

The monthly budget balance was circulated for information.

RECOMM: That the monthly figures be noted, that consideration be given to amending the Stoney Wood budget (line 20a) if further expense is incurred (& commensurately reducing Unallocated). That line 19 be changed to accommodate revised service charge to tenants for telecoms services. That the transfer of £2000 be made to WMF (line 45).

FBP100/16 Quarterly Balance Sheet & Bank Reconciliation

The 3rd quarter information was circulated.

RECOMM: That the information be noted. The chair confirmed reconciliation to the bank statements.

FBP101/16 Budget 2017/18 including Precept

The Clerk provided revised analysis using anticipated Band D information provided by DDDC alongside comparative information for other Town Councils.

RECOMM: That the precept be set at £127000 in 2017/18 ; given the DDDC Local Council Tax Support Grant (£3000 in 2016/17) has now reduced to zero, combined with the reduction in income (loss of Surestart tenancy) and proposed projects in 2017/18. The impact on Band D properties will be approx. 3.7% equivalent to £2.58 a year. The change represents a real increase in funding levels of £3000, if the grant support is excluded and an increase in funding for the Council of approximately 2.5%. In comparative terms the precept costs in Wirksworth are lower than Matlock (11% higher) & Ashbourne (14% higher) based upon 2016/17 data.

FBP102/16 Review of Letting Pricing & Conditions

In 2016 it was agreed that the pricing and conditions would be reviewed

annually. The assistant clerk provided a report showing two proposed options to increase and update the current terms.

RECOMM: That the lower increase is adopted (approx. 2%) with effect from 1st April 2017. All existing (occasional) bookings after 1 April 2017 (with a signed booking form) to be kept at the 2016 rate. Tenants of the Memorial Hall to be offered a 25% discount on rates between 08:00 – 16:00 Monday-Friday to encourage daytime usage (discount only for 2017/18). Pricing to be reviewed again in January 2018.

FBP103/16 Transfers of Land from DDDC

Inclusion of overage clauses by DDDC in the land transfers prompted a discussion and review of the proposal to adopt the land/assets. The Town Council had originally resolved to only accept the land without encumbrance and condition / and for Fanny Shaw toilet block to seek S106 funding to cover refurbishment costs.

RECOMM: a) That the Town Council no longer proceed with the transfer of land at Griggs gardens. The plot is too small to provide sufficient allotments which meet the statutory conditions, the potential to turn the plot to a community garden will require substantial investment which is not felt to be achievable within the current financial constraints and demands on the Town Council.

b) Church Walk – the committee are concerned about the potential liability created by adopting the larger plot, especially any potential costs created by remedial works to the paving/surfacing and have asked for clarification from full council regarding the decision.

c) Toilet Block – The original proposal was to adopt the toilet block, but that the refurbishment be funded by S106 funds from Coneygreave Development. In the absence of at least £10000 S106 funds the Town Council have insufficient resources to fund the refurbishment; therefore the transfer only proceed contingent on S106 funding.

FBP104/16 Update on progress to let office space at Memorial Hall

The clerk advised that 3 of the offices are now tenanted, but office 2 has attracted little interest.

RECOMM: That rent be reduced for office 2 from £225 to £175pm for 1 year to encourage interest and attract a tenant (rather than leave the space vacant).

FBP105/16 Clerks Time Sheet

For period October – December 2016, the clerk had accrued 16 ½ hours of TOIL

RECOMM: That the information be noted.

The meeting closed at 7:35 p.m

.....Chairman