

STALBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Clerk: T Watson

8 Ring Street, Stalbridge, Sturminster Newton, Dorset, DT10 2LZ.

Tel 01963 364276.

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DRAFT MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL TO MAKE A RECOMMENDATION ON THE 2011 / 2012 PRECEPT HELD IN THE TOWN COUNCIL OFFICE ON WEDNESDAY 8TH DECEMBER 2010 COMMENCING AFTER THE PLANNING MEETING.

Present Councillors: G Carr Jones (Chair), J Cowley, W Batty Smith, D Hine, J Cox, J Wardell, P Ashcroft, J Smith, K Garland & B Penfold.

Absent: Councillors: None

In attendance

There were no members of the public in attendance.

1. Apologies.

Apologies had been received in advance of the meeting from B Alexandre

2. Declarations of Interest.

There were no declarations of interest.

3. To consider the information presented regarding the Council's financial position for the first 8 months of 2010-11 and predicted position at the end of the financial year.

The Clerk advised that the current total bank balance stands at £62,195.89. The estimated balance carry forward at year end was £11,508.09. J Cowley raised the issue of depreciation of the Council's assets and the Clerk advised that this is done as part of the year end accounts. The Clerk committed to ensuring pages of the finance documents were numbered in future.

RESOLVED: There was general agreement to accept the figures as presented.

4. To consider the figures presented for the Budget period 11/12 in forecast income and give further instruction:-

a.Flat rent

The Clerk advised that the last rent review was in 2007 to the current level of £265.00 per month.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to implement an increase of £5 per month to £270.00 per month as of 1st April 2011.

b.NDDC grass cutting

The figure presented was based on 3% increase, pending approval from NDDC.

RESOLVED: There was general agreement to accept the figures as presented.

c.Other

This had been set at zero as it very difficult to forecast funds for allotment water, street cleaning refunds etc which will be allocated here.

RESOLVED: There was general agreement to accept the figures as presented.

5. To consider the figures presented for the Budget period 11/12 forecast payments and give further instruction:-

a. Wages: The appropriateness of the budgeted figures.

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Figures based on rise to SCP24 in April 2011 as per contract. No other rise included as not expected. Members considered the issue of Clerks gratuity / pension as highlighted in the internal audit and asked the Clerk to provide figures for the Jan meeting.

RESOLVED: There was general agreement to accept the figures for wages as presented and to review the financial implications of the Clerk gratuity / pension at the January meeting.

b. Administration: The appropriateness of the budgeted figures inc. stationery, postages, subscriptions & Loans.

Outstanding balance on the loans is £98,883.65. Loan 1 for £60,000 20 yrs final payment due 17/05/2014. Loan 2 for £100,000 25 yrs final payment due 17/05/2026. The figure presented for insurance was reviewed.

RESOLVED: There was general agreement to accept the figures as presented.

c. Office Expenses: The appropriateness of the budgeted figures inc. General expenses & IT maintenance.

It was noted that £300 was included to build a fund for office equipment.

RESOLVED: There was general agreement to accept the figures as presented.

d. Open Spaces/ buildings: The overall appropriateness of the budgeted figures inc. recreation, grass cutting, general maintenance, footpaths & other.

Recreation: Figure based on an estimated 3% rise sports field rent and £2,200.00 included to build a fund for play equipment.

Grass: Figures based JFPA mowing £2,800 based on quote from R Sharp.

Estimated increase of 3% on the Ring & Pound to £1,280 and NDDC grass to £3,760.

General maintenance:

The figure for maintenance was increased from £3,000 to £5,000 as the TC office needs external redecoration. As the building is of some age it was considered appropriate to have contingency for unforeseen repairs/ works to the office and flat.

Other:

Figures included £1,700 for the allotment extension pending NDDC approval.

Members wished to include a figure of £500 for the surfacing of Dikes path and considered if Dorset works may be able to do this. The figure of £500 for Jubilee play area mowing included 2 no. strim around fence boundary. The figure for grit bins was increased from £250 to £300 which would buy 2 more bins.

RESOLVED: There was general agreement to accept the figures as presented with the following amendments: Maintenance increased from £3,000 to £5,000. Dikes path addition of £500. Grit bins increased from £250 to £300.

e. WC's & Street Cleaning: The overall appropriateness of the budgeted figures.

Based on figure quoted by Gillingham TC, 1 year contract. Future contracts pending report for working party in the spring 2011.

RESOLVED: There was general agreement to accept the figures as presented.

f. Grants : To consider applications received for 11/12

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Members considered applications from: - The Hall Committee, St Mary's PCC (churchyard upkeep), The Youth Club and The Playing fields Committee.

RESOLVED: There was general agreement to make the following grants:- The Hall Committee £1,500, St Mary's PCC (churchyard upkeep) £3, 500, The Youth Club £750, The Playing fields Committee £1,500 & The Community office £200.

g.Section 137: To consider requests for donations under section 137 from: The Christmas lights Group, The Scout Group, Dorset Blind Association & other section 137 expenditure.

An additional application had been received from The Spinal injuries association. Members felt that in the present financial climate it was not appropriate to make charitable donations to larger organisations outside the town. Members felt that the amount donated for extra library hours could not be increased on the figure donated in 2010/2011.

RESOLVED: There was general agreement to make the following donations:- Scouts £500, Library £6974.50 and the light group £500.

6. The figure to be set aside for reserves.

The Clerk advised that the recommended reserve is 30% of precept value (based on £69,000 this should be £20,700). The estimated balance at year end is £11,508.09 which is low, therefore the Council should be considering putting at least £4,000 into reserves for the 11/12 precept.

RESOLVED: There was general agreement not to set aside any funds for maintenance of reserves.

7. The overall appropriateness of the predicted figures presented for receipts and payments for 2011/2012.

RESOLVED: There was general agreement to accept the figures as presented including the above amendments.

8. Recommendation for the level of the precept for 2011/2012.

RESOLVED: There was general agreement to defer the setting of the precept level to the January meeting.

The meeting Closed at 8.47pm