

Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting Held Wednesday 05 January 2022 at 6:30 PM

Those present :

Chairman : Cllr A Carr

Vice-Chairman : Cllr J Sayers

Councillors : Cllr K Hughes, Cllr T Hughes, Cllr P Mc Kinley

Officers : S Lawrence, A Mc Intyre

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies have been received from Cllr Jo Burns, Cllr C Carlsen and Cllr J Desmond.

2 Declarations of Interest

None Received.

3 Public Participation.

Due to Covid 19 Regulations public attendance at this meeting will be limited to 6 people. None attended.

4 To Confirm the Minutes of the Last Meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 29th September 2021 for Finance & General Purposes Committee were approved as a correct record.

5 Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements

The Town Clerk informed the budgets were on target for this time of year, and budgets continue to be monitored robustly.

RESOLVED that the Financial Statement as of 5th January 2022 be noted.

6 Budget Report 22-23

The Town Clerk informed members the recommendation from officers is the precept demand for 2022-23 be raised to cover the increased running costs of the Council and to cover some, if not all, of the proposed works. This would mean a precept increase of £18 to £124.06 per Band D property, a 35p per week increase if all the works in the Asset Maintenance Plan were funded. This would give an overall precept level of £830,916 or 77p per week per resident. This is a 16.89% increase in the precept.

The increase proposed would allow a considerable number of works to move forward within the Council's core business strategy of improving the parks and upgrading the estate.

Cllrs Comments:-

- MTC have received zero funding from Sefton Council.
- Ask Sefton to re-introduce the double rating for MTC. Town Clerk to formally write to Sefton MBC.

J.A. 

• Meadows Leisure Centre currently use MTC car park free of charge, the car park has to be maintained. The proposed charge to Sefton MBC would be £12,000 p.a. ex VAT. All members agreed for the Town Clerk to formally write to Sefton MBC for the above charge.

RESOLVED that:-

1. Agreed to recommend to Full Council the precept be increased by 16.89% to £18;
the financial year 2022-23;
2. Agreed to recommend to Full Council the proposed budget for the forthcoming financial year 2022-23;
3. Town Clerk to formally write to Sefton MBC regarding the double rating for MTC;
4. Town Clerk to formally write to Sefton MBC regarding the charge for the use of car park at £12,000 per annum;
5. The report be noted.

7 Vexatious Complainant Policy

The Town Clerk informed members that a Vexatious Complaints Policy was drafted to enable the MTC to deal with those matters which fall under its remit. The appropriate way to deal with constant complaints from the same person or group is to have a policy which clearly sets out how MTC will approach the matter and how any subsequent complaints will be dealt with.

RESOLVED that:-

1. Members agreed the recommendation to take the proposed Vexatious Complaints policy to next Full Council meeting;
2. The report be noted.

8 Chairman's Closing Comments

The Chair thanked all members for attending the meeting.

9 Exclusion of Press & Public

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded due to confidential nature of the item under discussion.

10 Debtors to the Council

The Town Clerk informed members MTC needs to ensure that it has robust methods in place to recover monies it is owed. To ensure all debt is paid and measures are put into place to recover any outstanding debt.

RESOLVED that:-

1. All members reviewed the position of bad debts;
2. All members agreed that the Responsible Finance Officer pursues any debt using the debtors' procedures. If payment is still not received the RFO/Town Clerk is authorised to pursue the outstanding debt, possibly by use of a debt collection agency or legal services;
3. The report be noted.

J.A.S 