

Yateley Town Council

Minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee on Monday, 13th January 2020, 7.30pm
held at The Tythings, Reading Road, Yateley, GU46 7RP

Councillors Present: Stuart Bailey (Chair) Pam Phelps-Jones
Graham Cockarill Tony Spencer
Bob Harward
Bob McSorley

In Attendance: Cllr Gill Hennell
Cllr Mark Griffin (arrived during item 1655)
Rochelle Halliday (Town Clerk)

1649 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Easterbrook and were accepted.

1650 Declaration of Interests

No declarations were made for any item on the agenda.

1651 Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

1652 Councillor Questions

Cllr Hennell – queried what would happen if a Council did not submit their precept request on time. *Councillors discussed the early timing of the precept request in terms of when Hart District Council and Hampshire County Council are required to set their Council Tax requirements. Parish Councils are required to submit their precept request very early in the process.*

1653 Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd December 2019 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Action: Town Clerk to check with Vision 4 Youth the status of the funding required for the new youth mental health support service to start in Frogmore. *Addendum:* Vision 4 Youth has secured funding up until 31st March 2020 for their new Wellbeing Café, which officially opened on 20th January. A request will be made to Yateley Town Council for further funds next financial year.

1654 Draft Corporate Plan 2020 - 2023

Members briefly reviewed the first draft of the Corporate Plan. Comments were received from Cllr Collett and will be incorporated into the draft.

It was agreed to complete a full review of the Corporate Plan at the next Committee meeting. The final draft will then be submitted for approval at the Full Council meeting on 9th March 2020.

1655 Draft Budget Proposal & Precept Request 2020/21

Cllr Bailey presented the draft budget to the Committee, detailing the main changes and the rationale for the precept request.

The main budgetary changes cover:

- The new post of Events & Communication Officer plus the cost of running community events;
- Capital expenditure projects, including the Monteagle Community Hall refurbishment, a new lighting scheme along Pipson's Lane and cemetery work;
- Legionella testing in all Council buildings;
- An increase in Yelabus grant funding;
- Tree surgery work;
- Uncertainties regarding the Hampshire County Council Lengthsman Scheme funding, although the Town Council has surplus funds in the scheme to carry forward short term.

The general reserves fund at the end of 2020/21 is projected to be reduced by £1,997 under the proposed budget plan. Earmarked reserves will support expenditure projects for the Neighbourhood Plan, Monteagle refurbishment and tree surgery work.

The proposed precept request is £485,029, which is a 4.8% increase on the current financial year.

Cllr Griffin arrived at 7.55pm.

It was **RESOLVED** to recommended that the Full Council approve the proposed budget plan as presented and the precept request of £485,029 for the 2020/21 financial year.

1656 Financial Statements, Bank Reconciliation & Overdue Accounts

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the financial statements for the period ending 30th November 2019.

Action: Town Clerk to find out if the Hampshire County Council Lengthsman Scheme will still be funded in the next financial year.

1657 Schedule of Accounts

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the list of payments presented to the Committee along with the following payments:

- January 2020 payroll:
 - Salaries: £11,162.97
 - HMRC: £3,123.35
 - Pension contributions: £2,856.90
- Hall hire deposit refund: £100 (cashbook payment)

It was noted that the payments list contained an error corrected by hand, showing Screwfix as the payee instead of SRA Trees. The Town Clerk explained that this error will be rectified in the accounts during the next payment run.

1658 Information Items

- The Council's Barclaycard was cancelled on 7th January 2020. The new Lloyds Bank credit card is working well.

Meeting closed at 8.09pm.