

CLEVEDON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Precept meeting of Clevedon Town Council held in The Council offices, 44 Old Street, Clevedon at 7.30pm on Wednesday 23rd January 2019

PRESENT: Chairman – Cllr J. West
 Councillors B. Cherokoff, L. Fone (7.37pm), C. Francis-Pester, J. Geldart, S. Hale, B. Hatch, G. Hill, J. Middleton, S. Moores, T. Morgan, A. Shopland (7.34pm), D. Shopland (7.34pm), G. Watkins.
 Town Clerk - Ms P Heath;
 NSC Cllr B. Garner

19/1009 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors N. Barton, (illness), L. Little (illness), J. Norton-Sealey (illness), Cllr K. O'Brien (illness) **RESOLVED:** That Council **ACCEPTS** the apologies and reasons given for absence.

19/1010 RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations of Interest for items on the agenda. It was noted that as all Councillors had an interest no greater than any tax payer of Clevedon then no declaration of interest is required for precept.

19/1011 RECEIVE AND AGREED THE BUDGET FOR 2019/2020

A summary budget sheet with details of reserves had been circulated with the agenda. Cllr Hill as Chairman of the Finance & General Policy Committee presented the budget to the members and responded to questions on the figures.

In response to a question it was explained that the £20,000 in the Property Committee budget was for the future maintenance, and towards the rebuild, of the Skate & Wheel Park. It was further explained that the money was ring fenced for the Skate Project to be used towards matched funding for grants and against money raised by the Clevedon Skate Project Charity for the Skate Project. Because the funds are ring fenced for a specific project it needs to be identified and not just as part of the general reserve. Following a comment all members expressed support for the Skate Project. Representatives from the Town Council on the Clevedon Skate Park Charity report back to the Property Committee and the Town Clerk acts as the Treasurer.

In response to a comment it was explained that the Training and Conference Budget covers individual courses and training for the office staff under CPD, plus covering the attendance of staff members and Councillors to sector conferences throughout the year and Councillor Training.

The Town Clerk informed members that if the request was to combine two items of the agenda then a motion could be put to the meeting and a vote taken.

Proposed by Cllr Hill and seconded, that Clevedon Town Council should agree a budget of £377,800 as circulated.

An Amendment was proposed by Cllr D. Shopland and seconded, that Clevedon Town Council budget should be set at the same band D rate as in 2018 , £45.60, by reducing the committee budgets as recorded.

It was explained that all the Committees had presented their budgets after extensive discussions based on the work for the forthcoming year. A comment was made that the budgets should be reduced by the percentage required to obtain the proposed budget figure requested under the amendment. The Member felt it was necessary to maintain the

Councils reserves as it was not possible to foresee what devolved services or cuts North Somerset Council would make in the coming years.

Following the discussion, the amendment was put to the vote and defeated by 11 votes to 2 with 1 abstention.

The substantive motion proposed by Cllr Hill and seconded was **RESOLVED** by 11 votes to 0 with 1 abstention that Clevedon Town Council agrees the budget for 2019/2020 at £377,800

19/1012 VOTE AND SET THE PRECEPT REQUEST FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2019/2020

Members discussed at length the amount of precept to raise to achieve the budget and the amount of money to be taken from reserves. It was noted that the recommendation made by the Accounts & Audit legislation is for the Council to hold 50% of the budget in reserves. This is to ensure the Council could continue to operate should NSC not be able to pay the precept request into the Council's accounts.

Proposed by Cllr Hill and seconded, that Clevedon Town Council should raise a precept of £368,321 a 2.5% rise on the band D amount in 2018/19 precept with the balancing £9,479 being taken from the Councils reserves.

An amendment was proposed by Cllr Morgan, and seconded, that Clevedon Town Council should raise a precept of £362,900 a 1% rise on the band D amount in 2018/19 with the balancing £14,870 being taken from reserves. This was defeated by 11 votes to 3.

The substantive motion was put and **RESOLVED** by 11 votes to 3 that Clevedon Town Council should raise a precept of £368,321 a 2.5% rise on the band D amount in 2018/19 precept with the balancing £9,479 being taken from the Councils reserves.

19/1013 CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

There were no Chairman's items for information

Meeting closed at 8.19 pm

APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIRMAN.....DATE.....