

SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
03 February 2015

Present: Councillors Upson (Chairman), Campbell, Draper, Kenyon, Jones, McIntyre, Nicholson, Swift, Westmorland, Wilson & Wootton.

Apologies: Councillor Leach.

3 members of the public were in attendance.

282 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors should disclose pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest/s in any item/s on this agenda.

The Chairman read out the following statement. Members are referred to, and shall observe, the provisions of the Hemsworth Town Council's Code of Conduct. If a Councillor has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest he/she must, unless a dispensation has been granted, withdraw from the meeting room and take no part in the discussion or vote. If any interest (Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary) has not been entered in the Town Council's register then you must disclose it at the meeting and inform the Monitoring Officer within 28 days of the date of initial disclosure. Failure to abide by the provisions of the Code in regard to Disclosable Pecuniary Interests now amounts to a criminal offence.

No disclosures were made.

283 BUDGETS 2015/2016

a. To discuss the Town Clerk's report attached - Budgetary Procedures

Members discussed the Town Clerk's report which had been circulated with the agenda (pages 201 – 211 of these minutes).

Councillor Westmorland proposed that the report and figures detailed be approved and the precept be set at £653,000. Councillor Jones seconded the proposal.

Councillor Kenyon stated that he did not agree with paragraphs 2 & 3 of the report highlighting that the Town Council raised there precept two years ago and yet there was still £89,000 in the balances that could be used to reduce the precept. He went onto say that that it was Wakefield Council that had refused to pass on a grant to the Town Council and that two of our District Councillors had not helped.

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The Chairman explained that Town & Parish Councils were under threat from the government in relation to the introduction of referendums if precepts were increased by over 2% and therefore the budget had been set to take this into account.

Councillor Kenyon referred members to paragraph 6 of the report detailing staffing matters and asked why the wages for the Lakeside and Water Park are over budget.

The Chairman informed Councillor Kenyon that an explanation of these matters was detailed in the report (paragraph 41 & 42).

Councillor Kenyon raised issues relating to paragraph 14 of the report stating that this Town Council should not defer the money to the Kinsley & Fitzwilliam Resource Centre, Connect Five bus service and Hemsworth and District Partnership and proposed that 50% of the funding that they had requested be paid in April. Councillor Wilson seconded the amendment.

The Chairman gave details of a letter received from Hemsworth & District Partnership which stated that they would be vacating 1, Bank Street at the end of March 2015.

RESOLVED: That by a vote of 2 for and 8 against the amendment was defeated.

Councillor Kenyon asked where the money was for the Maintenance Contracts that Saul Construction currently undertake and stated that any future tenders should not be given to Saul Construction. The Chairman responded by informing Councillor Kenyon that the budgets included funds for maintenance contracts and that all tenders will be dealt with as per Standing Orders.

Councillor Kenyon questioned the figures re; Corporate Management and the Clerk responded accordingly.

Councillor Kenyon stated that he did not agree with the Clerks income figures as he had found variations and would like to take the matter to his accountant before a precept was agreed. In addition to this he stated that some payments relating to staff had not been put through the accounts. The Chairman referred Councillor Kenyon to paragraph 16 of the report which detailed that the Town Council had received a clean bill of health from the completion of the audit.

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As no further matters were raised the Chairman asked for a vote on the proposal from Councillor Westmorland which was seconded by Councillor Jones: that the report and figures detailed be approved and the precept is set at £653,000.

RESOLVED: That by a vote of 9 for and 2 against, the proposal was approved.

- b.** That subject to any amendments to the report that a precept is agreed and authority is given to the Town Clerk to levy that precept on the District Council for the financial year commencing 1 April 2015.

It was agreed that as no amendments to the report were made that Authority is given to the Town Clerk to levy the precept of £653,000 on the District Council for the financial year commencing 1 April 2015.

Meeting closed at 7.30 p.m.

Tina Pattison
Town Clerk
03 February 2015

Ref: TC03:0215-C15.5