CORFE MULLEN TOWN COUNCIL
Towers Way, Corfe Mullen, Wimborne
Dorset, BH21 3UA
01202 698600
nicolagray@corfemullen-tc.gov.uk

Minutes of the Meeting of Finance & Administration Committee held at 18:45 on Tuesday 11 January 2022 in the Main Hall of the Village Hall

Present: ***Councillors***
P Harrison
A Craven
A Holland
P Holland
T Howard
J Lortie (Chair)
D Sowry-House
J Stennett

In Attendance: Nicola Gray (Town Clerk)

Public Participation

There were five members of the public present who did not wish to speak.

FA 21/18 **To Receive and Accept apologies for absence** (LGA 1972 s85 (1))

There were no apologies for absence.

FA 21/19 **To Record any declarations of interest** Members to declare any interests, including Disclosable Pecuniary Interests they may have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the Town Council's Code of Conduct and to consider any prior requests from members for Dispensations that accord with Localism Act 2011 s33(b-e) (NB this does not preclude any later declarations)

FA 21/20 **To Approve minutes of meeting held on 12 October 2021** LGA 1972, sch 12, para 41 **A**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2022 were APPROVED.

FA 21/21 **To Approve Accounts for Payment** **B**

The accounts for payment were APPROVED.

FA 21/22 **To Note the Budget Monitoring Report for the quarter ended 31 December 2021** **C**

Members received and NOTED the Budget Monitoring Report for quarter ending 31 December 2021.

FA 21/23 **To Consider draft Budget and Precept for the 2022/23 financial year for recommendation to full Council** **D**

The Clerk presented the proposed budget for the 2022/23 financial year noting this had been completed with the input of the Chair of Finance. The Clerk provided further

FGL.

information which provided the financial position as at the day of the meeting in order that members make an informed decision, along with some options which may be considered for covering the budget items. This was as follows:

- Total expenditure budget for Council running costs had increased by £18,000 for 2022/23
- Total exceptional and capital expenditure (earmarked reserves) had increased by £41,263.
- The predicted position on 31 March 2022 was approximately £90,000 in the general fund, £125,000 earmarked S.106 monies (cannot be used for anything other than as per the S.106 agreement) and £75,000 earmarked on 1 April 2021 for the pavilion rebuild/refurbishment project.
- Previous years have seen reserves used to consistently to top up the precept for covering the budget resulting in the current financial position, which is the correct procedure if there were no projects planned.
- An option to use the pavilion project monies to reduce impact on the precept may be considered, as could not agreeing all exceptional and capital expenditure.

The Chair asked members to consider each cost centre budget section rather than individual lines, for the proposed budget to be agreed effectively.

Members did not approve the following proposed items:

- £12,000 for cemetery security
- £6,000 for cemetery gates
- £5,000 for additional goal post protectors for the recreation spots pitches.
- £8,000 for member computer tablets
- £1,000 for pavement cleaning machine
- £2,500 for Former allotments site memorial stone

The Clerk recalculated the budget which now stood at £459,546.02, a reduction of £34,500.

Members then discussed the level of precept which would be required to cover the budget. A precept increase of 20.97%, which equates to £2.01 per month for a Band D property, or 50p per week, would cover the whole budget without the Council requiring the use of its reserves. Further calculations for a 5% increase to the precept would see £60,665.01 of Council reserves required, and 15% increase to the precept would see £22,682.36 of Council reservices required.

The Chair proposed the suspension of standing order X3 to enable the discussion to continue beyond the 2-hour time limit, which was agreed.

Several proposals were made in respect of the percentage increase and duly voted upon; however, none were successful in obtaining the majority required to put forward a recommendation to full Council. The Chair proposed the decision be deferred to Full Council with no recommendation from the Finance and Administration Committee which was agreed.

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend the revised budget of £459,546.02 to Full Council with no recommendation on the level of precept to be set.

FA 21/24 Matters for forthcoming agendas No decisions can be taken[1]

[1] Councils cannot lawfully decide items of business which are not specified in the summons/agenda (LGA1972 sch 12, paras 10(2)(b) and Longfield Parish Council v Wright (1918) 88 LJ Ch 119)

JGL

There were no matters for forthcoming agendas.

FA 21/25 **To Agree a date and time for the next meeting** – To be held on Tuesday 12 April 2022 at 19:00 in the main hall of the Village Hall, Towers Way, Corfe Mullen.

FA 21/26 **Close of meeting**

Meeting closed at 21:10.

Signed as a correct record of the meeting..... F. Lathe ..... *Date*..... 11/4/22 .....

FGL