

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 7.00PM ON MONDAY 2ND NOVEMBER 2015 AT THE CIVIC HALL, POYNTON.

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr C Gorst

Cllrs: M Beanland, L A Clarke, Mrs R Horsman-Johnson, G King, L Podmore, Mrs J Saunders and G Smith

25. Apologies for absence

Cllrs H Murray and Mrs T Lorde

26. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Other Interests

None.

27. Previous meeting minutes

The minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 28th September 2015 were approved subject to an amendment to the attendance of Cllr Mrs J Saunders as a member of this committee.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 28th September 2015 are, subject to the amendment, approved as an accurate record (6-2 abst)

28. The provisional Town Council budget for 2016/17

The Chairman of F&GP, the Clerk and former Clerk met to review the budget. With the Clerk being very new in role the Chair went through the provisional Town Council budget on this occasion.

The Chairman talked through the Revised Budget details compared with the Final Year Budget figures. The Chairman pointed out the main headline changes.

The Clerk was asked to clarify the following query:

- To check if the cost of the metal bins on Park Lane as approved at the FIED committee meeting on 26th October 2015 are included in this budget.

At present the Town Council part-funds five PCSOs. A Service Level Agreement exists between the Town Council and the Cheshire Constabulary which ends in March 2016.

The Police have undergone an extensive reorganisation and the future of PCSOs in Poynton appears uncertain. It has been indicated that the most likely future scenario is that Poynton will be controlled and directed from Macclesfield and that any changes will not occur before March 2017.

The Chairman of COPS, Cllr Mrs Saunders, explained the effect of the recent changes to the policing structure. As noted in a previous COPS meeting, the PCSOs are now starting and ending their shift at Macclesfield. This has caused problems. To start their shift the PCSOs travel to Poynton in a police vehicle, however the lack of police vehicles is contributing to a considerable delay in the start time for PCSOs in Poynton.

The issue for the Town Council is that it needs to ensure it has a viable plan in place. At a previous COPS meeting, a Working Group was agreed to look at alternatives to the current policing structure in Poynton. In any negotiations, the Town Council need to ensure it has options. Poynton has lower crime rates than Macclesfield and has invested in the Policing structure to ensure a proactive approach to policing and crime prevention. In future, if the Policing is moved to Macclesfield, issues will arise for Poynton particularly in terms of high levels of ASB (anti-social behaviour).

The preferred option is to negotiate and retain the current numbers of PCSOs. The Working Group, including Cllrs Mrs Saunders, King and Murray, are looking at alternative police provision. The future options will be at a cost of £100,000 a year. Cllr Mrs Saunders proposed an increase of £20,000 this year (2016/17) and £20,000 (2017/18) next year. A report on this issue is due to be received at the next COPS meeting.

Is the £100,000 to fund the five PCSOs in Poynton?

Yes.

A concern is that the Town Council is one of the only Councils funding five PCSOs and they could be deployed in other areas?

This is the reason that if the current arrangement is maintained with the five PCSOs then an appropriate service level agreement is agreed.

If we fund the PCSOs then we will be funding their travel time too?

If, for example, in future arrangements the Town Council fund the five PCSOs then this would not be under the umbrella of Macclesfield and this situation would not arise. Negotiations under the current policing arrangement are to negotiate a weekly briefing session for PCSOs which is the same arrangement as Wilmslow and Knutsford.

A member noted that the policing provision in Poynton over the last few years has enormously improved the crime rates. It is important to have the budget to

deal with this issue because the cost of the precept will more than outweigh the potential cost on the community.

How much extra will this put on the precept?

This is about 5%.

Were the Town Council looking to make savings across the spending committees?

Yes, each spending committee has been asked to look for a saving in the region of £5,000.

The Christmas Fest has received a CE Grant which will reduce the contribution by the Town Council.

Springboard costs can be removed because they are not required.

The committee considered the Estimates of Income and Expenditure 2016/17 Summary Sheet. Based on the current financial information this shows a 5.68% precept increase which is 7p a week.

A member noted the Town Council have consistently been let down by CE and the demands and costs of other authorities such as CCTV, Air Quality and Information Centre have been moved to the Town Council.

It was proposed that £20,000 for the COPS budget is included in the provisional budget for 2016/17 to build a reserve for the future provision of the PCSOs; that each of the three spending committees look for savings and the Town Council seek to save £20,000 by other means to keep within the draft budget.

The Chair reminded members that this is provisional budget.

RESOLVED: That the proposal is approved (7 - 1 against)

29. To note the Bank Reconciliation for September 2015, to be signed by the Chairman

This information was not available and it was proposed that this item is deferred to the next F&GP meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Bank Reconciliation for September 2015 is deferred to be received at the next F&GP meeting (NC)

30. Payment Schedule for September 2015

Microsoft Licence

The Clerk is making this payment on her personal credit card and reclaiming through expenses as per the arrangement put in place by the former Clerk.

**RESOLVED: That the Payment Schedule for September 2015 is received.
That the issue of a Town Council vehicle is included on the FIED
committee agenda (NC)**

The meeting concluded at 7:50pm