

# Sandy Town Council

**Minutes of a meeting of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee of Sandy Town Council which was held in the Council Chamber at 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire on Monday 7 January 2019 commencing at 7.30pm.**

**Present:** Cllrs P Blaine, T Cole, A Gibson, A M Hill, W Jackson, C Osborne (Chairman), M Scott and P Sharman.

**In attendance:** Cllrs N Aldis and N Thompson and Mr C Robson (Town Clerk).

	<i>Actions</i>
<p><b>1 Apologies for absence (83-2018/19)</b> Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs M Pettitt and J Sparrow. Cllr Sutton, who is not a member of the committee had also sent her apologies.</p>	Admin
<p><b>2 Declarations of interest (84-2018/19)</b> Councillors Osborne and Scott declared an interest as members of the Sandy Football Club, which may be discussed under items 5 and 7 as part of budget considerations.</p>	
<p><b>3 Public Participation Session (85-2018/19)</b> No members of the public were present.</p>	
<p><b>4 Minutes of previous meeting (86-2018/19)</b> <b>RESOLVED</b> to receive the minutes of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee held on 26 November 2018 and to approve them as a correct record of proceedings.</p>	
<p><b>5 Scale of Charges 2019/20 (87-2018/19)</b> Members received and considered the scale of charges for the 2019/20 financial year.</p> <p>Members reviewed each line of the scale of charges and approved increases on a page by page basis.</p> <p>It was proposed, seconded and <b>RESOLVED</b> that the increases for 2019/20 set out in page one of the scale of charges be approved.</p> <p>Members discussed rental of the Council's chamber and it was commented that the rates charged may be too high for community groups and it was a shame the facility was not used more by the community. As part of a push in advertising, the availability of the facility and any feedback on rates and its use by the community, could be brought back to the committee at a future date.</p>	Admin

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It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the increases for 2019/20 set out in page two of the scale of charges be approved.

Admin

Members noted that no increase had been applied to the cost of purchasing exclusive rights of burial in the Sandy Cemetery. It was proposed and seconded that the 2019/20 costs be increased by 2.2%.

Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that the increases for 2019/20 set out in page three of the scale of charges be approved, subject to also increasing purchasing of exclusive rights by 2.2%.

Admin

Members considered the final page of the scale of charges and it was **RESOLVED** that the increases for 2019/20 set out in page four of the scale of charges be approved.

Admin

## 6 CCTV Provision (88-2018/19)

Members received a report from the CCTV working group. Cllr Blaine spoke on behalf of the working group to state that the report outlines a way forward and the recommendations allow the working group to continue its review and generate a suitable proposal for the Council to consider. The support of the committee would give the working group confidence that it was heading in the right direction. It was pointed out that this was an interim report and would change subject to the objectives and needs set out for each of the Council's sites.

A Member stated that he would like to see public consultation on any changes to CCTV. The working group would consider this as part of its process. A Member of the working group reminded Councillors that recommendations would come back to this committee for discussion subject to any changes being made.

It was Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** that;

- 6.1 The revenue budget for CCTV cameras remains in place for the 2019/20 financial year. That the working group continue to explore the Council's CCTV requirements and alternative options available.
- 6.2 The installation of lighting and electricity on the Fallowfield recreation ground continue as resolved but that the installation of a CCTV camera is included in a CCTV provision proposal to be brought back by the working group.
- 6.3 A report is brought to a future meeting of Council to agree the

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Council's objectives for its CCTV so that an effective proposal can be developed.

Working Group

6.4 The Clerk approach the Police and Crime Commissioners office to enquire about funding streams to support CCTV Bedfordshire and ask what evidence can be provided that the police use CCTV cameras which are funded by Town Councils.

Clerk

## 7 2019/20 Budget and Precept (89-2018/19)

Members received and considered the draft 2019/20 budget. The Chairman took Members through a number of notes made by the Clerk which outlined changes made to the budget since the Council's last review.

A Member queried the repayment of the internal loan from the Fallowfield reserves and whether this could be reduced if it was not all being drawn on. The Clerk informed the committee that the Council had to budget for the full repayment amount at 4%, as works had started. It was also likely that the full amount of the loan would be spent and need repaying in the next financial year.

A Member referred to the £15,000 that was transferred from the Fallowfield reserves each year to the revenue budget to cover costs of maintenance. As the Fallowfield reserve was reduced, this would no longer be financially viable. It was acknowledged that it was inevitable that the time will come when this becomes part of the revenue budget and that the transfer amount could be reduced over the years.

Members went through the budget page by page.

Page 16 – It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that 4056, budget for legal costs be increased to £2,500 given a number of land issues which may prove contentious and will need addressing. The legal budget for the current financial year has been almost spent.

Page 23 – It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that 4702, community event support be lowered to £3,000 in line with the committee's original proposal.

Members considered page 11 of the agenda which summarised the budget and the overall increase to precept. A Member commented that it would be good to bring in the increase at less than 3% but was unable to offer any suggestions as to how this could be achieved.

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It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the committee recommend the budget, subject to changes to the legal costs and community event support budgets, to Full Council for approval.

The recommended budget requires an overall increase in precept funding of £18,041 (3.21%) which equates to a 3.19% increase per Band D equivalent, which is 8.59p per week or £4.48 per year.

The Clerk was thanked for all the hard work that had gone into the budget process this year.

## **8 Bedfordshire Fire Service 2019/20 Precept (90-2018/19)**

Members received and considered correspondence from the Bedfordshire Fire Service. Some Members indicated that they had already responded to the Fire Service's proposals as individuals. It was **RESOLVED** that Members respond to the consultation as individuals if they wish, but not on behalf of the Council.

## **9 Chairman's Items (91-2018/19)**

There were no Chairman's items.

## **10 Date of next meeting (92-2018/19)**

It was noted that the next committee meeting will be 28 January 2019.