

THORNBURY
TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Estimates Meeting
held on Thursday 22nd October 2015 in the Council Chamber

Present: Cllrs. Guy Rawlinson (Chairman)
Pam Shipp
Vincent Costello
Maggie Tyrrell
Angela Symonds
Clare Fardell
Benj Emmerson

Mrs J M Payne (Town Clerk)
Mrs S Richardson (Deputy Town Clerk)

Absent: Cllrs: Gail Whitehead
Martin Trueman

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The following apologies had been received:-

Cllrs: Clive Parkinson (Indisposed)
Bob Griffin (Out of Thornbury)
Shirley Holloway (Out of Thornbury)
Helen Harrison (Out of Thornbury)
Matthew Stringer (Other Commitment)
Alan Carmen (Out of Thornbury)
Lesley Jones (Family Commitment)

2. WAGES AND STAFFING REVIEW

176/15. A report prepared by the Clerk and tabled for members' information was received and a copy is appended to these minutes.

Resolved that:

- (i) The national pay award when settlement is reached be implemented with effect from 1st April 2015 for all staff in all cases where it is not automatically implemented by virtue of contract conditions.
- (ii) An allowance be made in the financial estimates for a national pay award of 1.5% at 1st April 2016.
- (iii) A part-time assistant be employed for 12 hours per week to help the Groundsman at the Mundy Playing Fields.

3. FINANCIAL ESTIMATES

177/15. (a) Environment Budget

(i) Revised Projection of Outturn

The Clerk introduced a revised projection of the current year outturn. The draft allowed for the reallocation of £7,000, made at the start of the financial year.

It was agreed that the projection be approved as drafted giving a projected balance forward of £9,699.

(ii) Estimates 2016-17

The Clerk introduced the draft estimates for 2016-17. The draft included £29,000 expenditure for the contract with South Gloucestershire Council's in accordance with the 'Changing Street Scene' proposals.

Agreed that the estimates be approved as drafted giving a precept requirement of £58,131.

178/15. (b) Playing Fields and Cemetery Budget

(i) Revised Projection of Outturn

The Clerk introduced a revised projection of the current year outturn. The draft allowed for expenditure as agreed when forward balances were re-allocated at the start of the financial year.

It was agreed that the projection be approved as drafted giving a projected balance forward of £70,501

(ii) Estimates 2016-17

The Clerk introduced the draft estimates for 2016-17. The draft included £7,500 towards the purchase of the transit truck currently on a lease that expires in March 2016.

Agreed that the estimates be approved as drafted giving a precept requirement of £121,599

179/15. (c) Central Services Budget

(i) Revised Projection of Outturn

The Clerk introduced a revised projection of the current year outturn. The draft allowed for expenditure as agreed when forward balances were re-allocated at the start of the financial year.

It was agreed that the projection be approved as drafted giving a projected balance forward of £34,337.

(ii) Estimates 2016-17

The Clerk introduced the draft estimates for 2016-17 which assumed continuation of current policies.

It was agreed to change the amount of redecoration of the Town Hall to £12,000 and that with this alteration the estimates be approved as drafted, giving a precept requirement of £172,903.

180/15. (d) Land and Property

(i) Revised Projection of Outturn

The Clerk introduced a revised projection of the current year outturn. The draft allowed for expenditure as agreed when forward balances were re-allocated at the start of the financial year.

It was agreed that the projection be approved as drafted giving a projected balance forward of £2,489.

(ii) Estimates 2016-17

The Clerk introduced the draft estimates for 2016-17 which assumed continuation of current policies.

Agreed that the estimates be approved as drafted giving a precept requirement of £17,235.

181/15. (e) Grants and Contingencies

(i) Revised Projection of Outturn

The Clerk introduced a revised projection of the current year outturn. The draft assumed continuation of current policies and reflected decision already made in respect of grant aid.

It was agreed that the project be approved as drafted, giving a projected balance forward of £18,973.

(ii) Estimates 2016-17

The Clerk introduced the draft estimates for 2016-17 which assumed continuation of current policies. A Local Council Support Grant of £18,731 had been included in the estimates but this was based on the lowest figure of two options provided by South Gloucestershire Council. However, as option 3 (to abolish the Support Grant) would not be decided until February, the inclusion of this amount may be tenuous.

Agreed that the estimates be approved as drafted giving a precept requirement of £95,191.

4. GRANT AID POLICY

182/15. (a) South Gloucestershire Citizens' Advice Bureau

(i) Current Year:- Provision had been made in the estimates for grant aid of £7,450 being 100% of rent charged for office accommodation. A paper transfer of grant against rent would be effected in December 2015.

- (ii) 2016-17:- Agreed that grant aid remain at 100% but with the Police now sharing the premises and the rent would decrease to £3,850. The paper transfer of grant against rent would be effected in December 2016.
- 183/15. (b) Thornbury and District Volunteer Link (Cllr. Clare Fardell declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest as a member of Volunteer Link)
- (i) Current Year:- Provision had been made in the estimates for grant aid of £4,050 being 100% of rent charged for office accommodation. A paper transfer of grant against rent would be effected in December 2015.
- (ii) 2016-17:- Agreed that grant aid remain at 100% and that the rent be increased by 3% to £4,175. The paper transfer of grant against rent would be effected in December 2016.
- 184/15. (c) Thornbury Pensioners' Drop In Centre (Cllr. Clare Fardell declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest as a member of the Drop-In Centre Committee)
- (i) Current Year:- Provision had been made in the estimates for grant aid of 80% of the cost of hiring charges in respect of the Community Room with the Town Hall. This was estimated to amount to £6,050 for the year.
- (ii) 2016-17:- Agreed that grant aid remain at 80% of the cost of hiring charges which were anticipated to rise by 3% to approximately £6,300. Monthly invoices would continue to indicate the level of grant included.
- 185/15. (d) Thornbury and District Heritage Trust
- (i) Current Year:- Provision had been made in the estimates for grant aid of £6,000 being £3,350 for 100% of the rent charged by the Armstrong Hall Charitable Trust for the museum premises at 4 Chapel Street and £2,650 in respect of outgoings. The grant for the rent would be paid in December 2015.
- (ii) 2016-17:- Agreed to continue to grant 100% of the cost of renting 4 Chapel Street which had been estimated at £3,450 and would be paid in December 2016. £2,750 had been allowed for the outgoings for 4 Chapel Street.
- 186/15. (e) Thornbury and District Community Association
- (i) Current Year Revenue Grant :- Provision had been made in the estimates for a revenue grant of £3,800. The grant would be listed for payment in December 2015.
- (ii) 2016-17 Revenue Grant:- It was agreed that the grant be increased by 3% and that provision be made in the estimates for a grant of £3,950. The grant would be paid in December 2016.