

SPECIAL POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Held on Wednesday 14 December 2016

At 6.30pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall

Present:

Councillor: T Morris (Chairman)

Councillors:	A K Beames	C Holliday
	C Brown	J S King
	H B Eaglestone	C K Woodward
	A D Harvey	

Officers:	Town Clerk	Responsible Financial Office
		Democratic Services Officer

F697 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for their absence were received from Cllrs Bartington, Churchill, Reynolds and Temple.

F698 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest in matters to be discussed at the meeting.

F699 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present for this item.

F700 TO RESOLVE THE SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER 35 (B) TO ENABLE ALL MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THE MEETING

RESOLVED: that standing order 35 (B) is suspended to enable all members to participate fully in the meeting.

F701 COUNCIL REVENUE BUDGET AND CAPITAL/SPECIAL REVENUE PROJECTS PROGRAMME: REVISED BUDGET 2016/17 AND ESTIMATES 2017/18

A member thanked the officers for producing a budget and looking to see where savings could be made. This was echoed by all.

The Leader commented that the budget had been set up as the Council was ambitious and had a big workload. Prioritisation was down to capacity to do the work rather than funding. As there was the possibility that future precepts could be capped at 2% it was good to get projects planned now.

A member asked about the raising of the 2% capping on District and County Councils to 3% and wondered if this would apply to parishes. The Leader replied that he understood it was not for parishes.

A member stated that he felt it was the right thing to do to raise the precept at this stage to get things done rather than to freeze it.

A member expressed concern about £750,000 spent on the Corn Exchange as the Langdale Hall had not been sold. He felt that the Council was £750,000 adrift and wanted to see money put back. The RFO added that the money to pay for the Corn Exchange had come out of reserves and some S106 money had been received which would help to replenish reserves.

A member emphasised the importance of employing the right person as a Public Halls Manager and that having the hall running was the quickest way to replenish funds.

RECOMMENDED: that the report be noted and the recommendations of the meeting held on 28 November 2016 be reaffirmed.

F702 **TO FORMALLY RECOMMEND THE PRECEPT FOR 2017/18**

The Committee received and considered the report of the RFO as circulated with the agenda.

RECOMMENDED:-

1. that the report be noted;
2. that the Town Clerk be authorised to sign and serve a precept on the West Oxfordshire District Council, in accordance with the appropriate provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), requiring the District Council to pay the Town Council the sum of £1,340,063 in respect of Council Tax for the town during the financial year 2017/18.

F703 **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED: that in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, and as extended by Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public, including the press, be excluded from the meeting because of the confidential nature of the following business to be transacted.

F704 **PROPERTY MATTERS**

The Town Clerk gave a verbal update on unauthorised internal alterations by one of the Council's tenants. The work had been stopped by Council Officers and the Town Clerk had obtained a quotation for a survey of the building. Fees would be passed onto the tenant. The lease renewal was still ongoing. *Cllr J Doughty entered at 6.43pm.*

The Town Clerk would advise the insurance company of the events.

RECOMMENDED: that the verbal report be noted.

F705 **STAFFING MATTERS**

The Committee received a confidential verbal report from the Personnel meeting held earlier that evening.

RECOMMENDED: that the report be noted and the recommendations contained therein approved.

The meeting closed at 6.45pm

Chairman