

SPECIAL POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Held on Monday 8 January 2018

At 6.30pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall

Present:

Councillor: TJ Morris (Chairman)

Councillors	A K Beames	A D Harvey
	H W Chirgwin	C Holliday
	B J Churchill	J S King
	H B Eaglestone	L M Price
		C K Woodward

Officers:	Town Clerk	RFO
	Administrator	

F001 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

F002 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Price declared an interest as she was Chairman of West Oxfordshire Community Transport. Cllrs Churchill and Chirgwin also declared an interest as they were shareholders.

F003 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

F004 **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER 35(B) TO ENABLE ALL MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THE MEETING**

RESOLVED: that Standing Order 35(b) be suspended to allow all members present to participate fully in the meeting.

F005 **COUNCIL REVENUE BUDGET AND CAPITAL/SPECIAL PROJECTS PROGRAMME: REVISED BUDGET 2017/18 AND ESTIMATE 2018/19**

The Committee received and considered the report of the Responsible Financial Officer as previously circulated. A member congratulated officers on an outstanding job once again.

The Town Clerk reminded members that the Committee had allocated £500 for Base 33 which had now wound up and at the previous meeting members had agreed that it could be reallocated to another service of benefit to the community. Synolos was now taking on some of the work formerly done by Base 33 so this may be a deserving cause.

The Town Clerk advised that as the Council had rejected the cost of planting the RAF Roundel bed with carpet bedding, the Operations and Estates Officer had been forced to make a decision due to time constraints and the bed would just be planted up with summer bedding plants instead.

RECOMMENDED:

1. that the report be noted;
2. that the £500 grant to Base 33 be earmarked for something of community benefit;
3. that £10,000 be put into the 2018/19 budget for the Lake and Country Park;
4. that the £3,000 cost of the Traffic Regulation Order on The Leys be put into the 2018/19 budget.

F006 **PRECEPT 2018/19**

The Committee received and considered the report of the Responsible Financial Officer as circulated prior to the meeting. A member commented that there was a small increase but this was in line with the services that the Council wanted to provide.

The Town Clerk advised that the threat of capping had been rescinded for a few years although the Government was encouraging local councils to keep their precepts as low as possible.

A member remarked that the Officers had worked hard on the precept and he thanked them for their work.

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 £1,381,937 in respect of Council Tax for the town during the financial year 2018/19.

F007 **UPDATE ON THE LANGDALE HALL**

The Committee received and considered the report of the Town Clerk as circulated prior to the meeting.

The ICE Centre had identified further items that they required for their use of the building and whilst they were prepared to pay the upfront cost, had made it clear that they would be expecting to be reimbursed by way of a rent reduction. Their position was that the technical infrastructure they wanted would benefit other users too.

The Chairman stated that whilst the Council had agreed to bring the building up to a modern standard, the items ICE was asking for was for its specific needs. They were the tenant on a commercial lease and therefore it was their responsibility to put these in.

A member said that she would be interested in who the other users might be and how they might benefit from these services. As a County Councillor, she believed that if there were mutual benefits, they could apply to the County Council's new Innovation Fund which would support some of the services taking over from the day centres which had been closed.

A member added that the Town Council needed to have a clear asset list before ICE formally moved in.

A member felt that cabling and wi-fi provision could be classed as an essential item. She was minded to propose that the Council paid for the technical infrastructure item, but not the hoists or the interactive TV. All members agreed with this and the money would come from the rolling capital budget.

RECOMMENDED:

1. that the report be noted;
2. that the Town Council funds the following items :
 - IT cabling for broad band and phones £491 plus VAT
 - Cabling for projector and sound system £1,159 plus VAT
 - Cabling for computers in the day room, office and meeting room £ £1,249 plus VAT
 - Wi-Fi routers and configuration £647 plus VAT.
3. that the Town Council does not fund the hoists for both toilet area, changing bed for downstairs or an interactive TV.

The meeting closed at 6.55pm.

Chairman