



Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 31st January 2022 at 7.00pm

Present:

Councillors: Councillors: John Callinan, Mike Davis, Neil Gibbs, Carol Kambites (Vice-Chair), Gary Powell (Chair), Val Randell, Pam Swain, Keith Terry, David Thorpe.

In Attendance: Clerk to Stonehouse Town Council

Attendees were reminded that the Proceedings of the meeting could be filmed, photographed or recorded.

There were no public presentations

- TC2741 To receive apologies**
Apologies were received from Cllrs Rachel Armstrong, Chris Brine and Kevin Parsons
- TC2742 To receive declarations of Interest**
There were non declarations of interest
- TC2743 To approve the minutes of the Meetings of the Town Council held on 24th January 2021**
Council **APPROVED** the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting
- TC2744 To approve the following draft Town Council response to Stroud District Council's economic development strategy consultation as recommended by Environment Committee (Agenda Item E/464):**

'The draft Economic Development Strategy is welcomed and the vision and economic objectives and commitments are supported.

The three priority sectors selected for the Stonehouse cluster are relevant to the town. The Town Council would also like recognition of the potential to develop different sectors of the economy in Stonehouse. For example, there are opportunities to develop the tourism and visitor economy sector in Stonehouse which has good public transport links and is on a Sustrans National Cycle Route.

It is suggested that the Economic Development Strategy gives greater emphasis to the potential of the Cotswold Canals Connected project to bring tourism and visitors to all the settlements along the canal'.

Council **APPROVED** the Town Council response to Stroud District Council's economic development strategy consultation as recommended by Environment Committee

- TC2745 To approve the Council's budget for Financial Year 2022/23**
The Clerk updated Councillors on a last-minute correction of an error identified within the working papers used for the preparation of the budgets. Its correction resulted in a decrease in the proposed budget - up to date working papers were distributed at the meeting to reflect this. The Clerk provided Council with an overview, highlighting the comparative budget figures and explaining that the previous year's budget was underwritten by the Council's Reserves by £13,085. The proposed budget of £367,130 for 2022/23 represented a 4.87% increase on the previous year.
Cllr John Callinan stated that he would not vote in favour of an increase in budget. There was limited further discussion. A recorded vote was requested.
Cllr Carol Kambites proposed that council approves the budget as detailed in the Clerk's latest update - this was seconded by Neil Gibbs. Votes FOR included Cllrs Gary Powell, Mike Davis, Carol Kambites, Neil Gibbs, Pam Swain, David Thorpe and Mick Gibbons; those AGAINST included Cllr John Callinan, Keith Terry and Val Randell
Council **APPROVED** the Town Council's Net budget of £367,130 for financial year 2022/23.

- TC2746 To consider feedback from Business and Environment Committees and approve the Precept for the financial year 2022/23**
The Clerk stated that, based on the general strength of feeling amongst Councillors that any increase be capped at approximately 6%, the working papers proposed an increase in precept of 5.98%. This was arrived at by allocating £10,000 of the Town Council's Reserves towards the difference between the approved 2022/23 budget of £367,130 and the previous year's Precept of £336,995 (Diff of £30,135); this would result in a Precept increase of £20,130 (5.98%) equating to a monetary increase of £8.36 per property per year or £0.69p per month.
Comments against the proposed precept included one Cllr expressing the need to maintain the nil budget increase with another raising the issue of people being on the breadline and would be unable to pay; there was discussion around the issue of how the national auditor would view the increase.
Councillors were generally more in favour of the increase because they felt it important that the council fulfil the towns plans, the fact that without appropriate staff reserves would continue to rise, the need to move important projects forward for the town and that it

was important to cover inflation which is currently running very high. One Cllr felt that the council's reserves should not be supporting the budget in terms of day to day expenditure but felt under the circumstances that the proposed allocation of £10,00 from reserves next year was a good compromise.

With 2022/23 budget set at £367,130, Cllr Neil Gibbs proposed the recommended Precept of £357,130 with the difference of £10,000 being funded through the council's reserves - this was seconded by Cllr Carol Kambites. Cllr John Callinan asked for a recorded vote; Votes FOR the proposal included Cllrs Gary Powell, Mike Davis, Carol Kambites, Neil Gibbs, Pam Swain, David Thorpe and Mick Gibbons; those AGAINST included Cllr John Callinan, Keith Terry; Abstentions included Cllr Val Randell

Council **APPROVED** the Town Council's PRECEPT of £357,130 for financial year 2022/23.

TC2747 To note the date of the next Town Council Meeting: Monday 14th February '22.

Latest revision presented to Cllrs per
 Discussion at ETC meeting on 31st Jan '22
 (presented at the meeting in hard copy
 format)

Financial Budget Comparison

INCOME

Business	Revised Budget		
	2021 / 2022	22/23	Diff
100 Precept	-336995	-360630.48	-23635.5
Total Precept	-336995	-360630.48	-23635.5
105 Newsletter Advertising	0	-1000	-1000
110 Lettings (Pav change rooms)	0	-2000	-2000
115 Meeting Room Hire (Town Hall)	0	-300	-300
120 Feed-in Tariff from Town Hall	-600	-800	-200
125 Stonehouse Town FC lease	0	-500	-500
130 Athletics Field Lease	0	0	0
135 Phone Mast on Land	-6548	-6548	0
140 Building Lease at OEL (Cadets)	-636.52	-636.52	0
145 Magpies Social Club	0	-3150	-3150
150 Community Centre Lease	0	-500	-500
155 OEL Pitch Hire	0	-2000	-2000
160 Misc Building Hire (Pav Meeting room)	0	-500	-500
170 Investments Interest	999.96	0	-999.96
175 Town Hall/Library Recharges	0	-4000	-4000
300 Petty Cash - Income	0	0	0
Total Business Committee Minus Precept	-6784.56	-21934.52	-15150

INCOME

Environment	Revised Budget		
	2021/2022	22/23	Diff
200 Stonehouse in Bloom	0	-1500	-1500
205 Event Income/Donations	0	-1200	-1200
210 Planting Sponsorship	0	-800	-800
215 Grants	0	0	0
Total Environment Committee	0	-3500	-3500
Total Income Excl Precept	-6784.56	-25434.52	-18650
Total Income Incl Precept	-343779.56	-379065	-35285.4

EXPENDITURE

Business	Revised Budget		
	2021/2022	22/23	Diff
1000 Salaries	152885	168885	16000
1010 Training & Recruitment	3000	3000	0
1020 Health & Safety	1500	4500	3000
1030 Professional Fees	8000	10000	2000
1040 IT support	7000	8750	1750
1050 Office Equipment Renewals	500	500	0

1060 Grants	20000	15000	-5000
1070 Town Hall/Library Shared Costs	12000	16100	4100
1080 Town Hall/Library STC costs	3500	2500	-1000
1090 Admin Expenses	4500	4250	-250
1100 Mayor's Charity & Expenses	300	300	0
1110 Travel Costs/Staff & Councillors	800	400	-400
1120 Election Costs	0	0	0
1130 Civic/Remembrance Parades	180	180	0
1140 Pavilion Overheads	7000	12900	5900
1150 Workshop Overheads	2000	2700	700
1160 Equipment & Vehicle Costs	5900	4900	-1000
1170 Youth Centre Workers	40000	50000	10000
1180 Youth Centre Overheads	6000	8900	2900
1200 Subscriptions	3500	3500	0
1210 Insurances	6500	6500	0
1220 Project Planning & Delivery	3000	0	-3000
1230 Climate Change	5000	5000	0
1240 Petty Cash	0	0	0
Total Town Business Committee	293065	328765	35700

EXPENDITURE

Environment	Revised Budget		
	2021/2022	22/23	Diff
1190 Amenity Areas	37500	38500	1000
2000 Christmas Lights	5000	5000	0
2005 Climate Change	2000	2000	0
2010 In Bloom	7000	7000	0
2020 Street Furniture/Bus Shelters	2000	3000	1000
2030 Traffic Calming/Transport Studies	0	1000	1000
2040 Town Greens Maintenance	0	0	0
2050 Cultural Events & Studies	5000	7000	2000
2060 Signage	300	300	0
2070 Town Centre Partnership	0	0	0
2080 Neighbourhood Plan Review	4000	0	-4000
2090 Planning Specialist Advice	1000	0	-1000
Total Town Environment Committee	63800	63800	0

2021/22 Net Expenditure Budget	350080.44		
2021/22 Precept	336995		
2021/22 Allocation of Reserves	13085		
	2021/22	2022/23	Diff
Total Budgeted Expenditure	£ 356,865	£ 392,565	£ 35,700
Total Budgeted Income - minus PRECEPT	-£ 6,785	-£ 25,435	-£ 18,650
Total Budgeted Net Expenditure	£ 350,080	£ 367,130	£ 17,050
Increase in Budgeted Net Expenditure 2021/22 and 2022/23			4.87%
Increase in Precept 2021/22 and 2022/23 without reserve allocation		£ 30,135	11.02%
Allocation of General Reserves		-£ 10,000	
Increase in proposed Precept 2022/23		£ 20,135	5.98%
Precept proposed for 2022/23		£ 357,130	

Reserve Suggestions

Stagholt Allotments	8000
NDP	8000
Stagholt Brook	10000
Court View	10000
Platinum Jubilee	10000
Major Projects	5000