

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ST NEOTS TOWN COUNCIL
FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE MOOT HALL, THE PRIORY CENTRE
ON THURSDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2011

Present: Cllr A Jennings - Chairman

Cllr C Jones Cllr D Ruck
Cllr I Gardener Cllr C Thompson
Cllr C Duck

There were no members of the public present.

28. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr P Ursell.

29. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

30. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 October were **APPROVED**.

31. Budget

The Responsible Finance Officer presented the proposed baseline budget for 2011-12. Members reviewed the draft and made the following recommendations:

105 – Central Administration

No provision made for this budget but income may be generated if Huntingdonshire District Council maintain customer service department for 2012-13.

201 – Cemetery and Churchyard

The gravel path in the new Lawn Cemetery is not suitable for disabled access and needs to be replaced with tarmac. It was originally proposed to do this over a three year period but Members **AGREED** to replace all the paths at once using funds from existing Earmarked Reserves and General Reserves if insufficient funds in Earmarked Reserves.

210 – Income

No provision made but there may be income from proposed Sidney Banks pitch hire.

230 – CCTV

From next year, Cambridgeshire Constabulary will no longer be supporting Huntingdonshire's CCTV network and the District Council had asked local towns for help with maintaining this service. The Town Council will contribute 50 per cent towards the town's CCTV service.

230 – Market Expenses

It was agreed that part of the budget for this would be moved to a new budget heading, Market Development.

370 – Town Promotion

This budget will be set at £5,000 but may be reviewed after the new Town Centre Manager has taken up post. Additional funds, if required, to be transferred from General Reserves.

In summary, the Chairman said that the proposed budget for 2012-13 would give a Band D Council Tax Precept of £84.23 which would be a zero increase for a further year.

Current Earmarked Reserves

The Chairman reminded Members of the Council's proposed projects:

- (i) Allotment land
- (ii) New Cemetery land
- (iii) Additional funding for maintenance of Council assets
- (iv) Play areas
- (v) Loves Farm Community Centre fit-out
- (vi) Re-opening of South Street toilets
- (vii) Revenue costs for running South Street toilets

Proposed increases of £175,327 to the Earmarked Reserves include:

- (i) **Allotment Land** – £38,000 to accrue funds for additional land purchase
- (ii) **New Cemetery Land** – £20,000 to accrue funds for purchase of land.
- (iii) **Eatons Community Centre** – £10,000 to accrue funds for future repairs.
- (iv) **Loves Farm Community Fit Out** – £30,000 to help with fit out costs.
- (v) **Play Areas** – £10,000 to accrue funds for replacements or upgrades.
- (vi) **South Street Toilets** – £55,000 to refurbish and open these conveniences.
- (vii) **Signs and Notice Boards** – £2,000 to accrue funds for replacements.
- (viii) **Priory Centre Capital Projects** – £10,000 to accrue funds.
- (ix) **Redistribution balance** – of £327 to balance the redistribution.

Proposed redistribution of the Earmarked Reserves include:

- (i) **Bus Shelters** – £2,674 remove this budget as bus routes reduced.
- (ii) **Coffee Bar Provision** – £ 7,234 moved to Priory Centre Capital Projects.
- (iii) **Council Assets** – £75,000 moved to Priory Centre Capital Projects.
- (iv) **Eatons Community Centre** - £13,810 moved to Eatons Capital Projects.
- (v) **Eatons Community Fit-Out** – £6,098 moved to Eatons Capital Projects.
- (vi) **Eatons Capital Projects** – £19,908 added from Eatons Community Centre.
- (vii) **Environmental Schemes** – £10,000 redistributed.
- (viii) **Footpath Projects** – £1,744 added from redistribution.
- (ix) **Lighting Schemes** – £1,124 moved to footpaths for the Lawn Cemetery.
- (x) **Office Fit-Out** – £4,030 moved to Priory Centre Capital Projects.
- (xi) **Portable Staging** – £5,884 moved to Priory Centre Capital Projects.
- (xii) **Priory Centre Capital Projects** – £122,148 added from redistribution.
- (xiii) **Redevelopment of the Town** – £2,000 redistributed
- (xiv) **Traffic Management** – £14,999 redistributed.
- (xv) **Village Greens** – £620 moved to footpaths for the Lawn Cemetery.
- (xvi) **Redistribution balance** – £327 to balance the redistribution.

Cinema Grant – small grant received from Screen East. Members to look at terms of grant and report back to Finance & General Purposes Committee

General Reserves

Members agreed to set the General Reserve balance at **£522.071**, with the predicted surplus from 2011-12 to be used in Earmarked Reserves.

Members **RESOLVED to Recommend** the Budget for 2012-13 to Council.

Proposed by Cllr Gardener, seconded by Cllr Ruck, unanimous voting.

The Chairman thanked the Responsible Finance Officer and Accountant for their well-presented budget.

Meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

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CHAIRMAN
10.11.2011