

LISKEARD TOWN COUNCIL

AT a MEETING of the FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE held in the Long Room on Tuesday 17 January 2017 at 7.00 p.m. there were present:

The Mayor – Councillor Jane Pascoe – in the Chair

The Deputy Mayor – Councillor Christina Whitty

Councillors – Ian Goldsworthy, Sally Hawken, Sue Pike, James Shrubsole, Lorna Shrubsole and Hella Tovar.

Member of the Public – Gordon Stokes (Museum Volunteer)

The Mayor advised the Council of Housekeeping matters

392/16 APOLOGIES

Councillors Rachel Brooks and Tyler Bennetts.

393/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS, REGISTERABLE AND NON REGISTERABLE

Councillor Goldsworthy Non-Registerable Interest. Made in respect of Agenda Item 7 Lions Club of Liskeard. The Mayor in respect of Agenda Item 13 102699.

394/16 TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2016

Councillor Pike proposed, the Deputy Mayor seconded and the Committee **APPROVED** the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 15 November 2016.

395/16 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None.

396/16 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT – All items were the subject of agenda reports.

397/16 BUDGET

Noted. Need to see in future if trends develop in relation to Civic Duty & Member Expenses and Professional Fees expenditure codes.

19.09 Councillor Goldsworthy left the room.

398/16 GRANT APPLICATION – LIONS CLUB OF LISKEARD

The Town Clerk had received and circulated earlier in the day an e-mail and attachments. This included a note from the Lions that the last set of accounts are still being audited. The Lions had supplied the audited accounts for the two financial years preceding that.

Councillor Tovar proposed, Councillor L Shrubsole seconded and the Committee **RESOLVED** that a grant of £300 be made to the Lions Club.

19.15 Councillor Goldsworthy returned to the room.

399/16 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE BUDGET SETTING 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 – 2021/2022

Arising from the discussion, the following changes and points were made to the 2017/2018 draft budget:

1. Change “Public Hall Equipment & Leasing” to “Office Equipment & Leasing”.
2. Remove – Town Forum - £900.

Arising from the discussion, the above changes being transferred to the 2018/2019 – 2021/2022 draft budget the following points were made:

1. Elections – increase to £3,000 per annum
2. Section 106 Fees Spend Increase – increase to £7,700 per annum

The Mayor proposed, Councillor L Shrubsole seconded and the Committee **RESOLVED** to approve the revised 2017/2018 budget.

Councillor J Shrubsole proposed, Councillor Goldsworthy seconded and the Committee **RESOLVED** to approve the indicative 2018/2019 – 2021/2022 budgets.

400/16 COUNCIL PRECEPT AND BUDGET SETTING 2017/2018

The Mayor thanked the Councillors and Staff for thoroughly reviewing the draft budgets a second time. The first exercise had reduced next year's draft precept significantly:

	Precept Figure Proposed	Increase on 2016/2017 Precept
1 st Draft	£472,215	21%
2 nd Draft	£424,975	9%

Arising from the discussions the following additional changes were made to the proposed draft budget:

1. Finance and General Purposes Committee – remove Town Forum £900 as agreed earlier in the Committee meeting.
2. Communications and Engagement Committee – remove the Trailer - £725 - it was considered that the trailer could be disposed of and the receipt used to purchase a gazebo that was of more utility than the trailer.
3. Museum Grant (within the Communications and Engagement Committee) – this grant was currently set to be £24,900 for the 2017/2018 financial year. From the 2018/2019 financial year onwards the Museum anticipated that investments made so far and next year would enable the Museum grant to be significantly reduced. It was noted that actual spend on the 2015/2016 financial year was significantly below budget and a nominated reserve was created from the underspend and carried forward to fund investments. The Forecast Outturn for 2016/2017 was likely to be significantly down on the approved budget. It was agreed that if the underspend in the 2016/2017 financial year is put into a nominated reserve and carried forward along with the nominated reserves from 2015/2016 this would create the investment reserves needed and the draft 2017/2018 grant could be reduced to £12,000.

These three measures could create additional savings of:

Finance Committee	£900
Communications and Engagement Committee	£725
Museum Grant	£12,900
Total Additional Saving	£14,525

Calculation of the Impact of the additional savings on Options 1 and 2

	Option 1	Option 2 (+£75,000 Devolution)
Precept	£410,450	£485,450
Additional funding raised compared with current precept	£21,197	£96,197
Precept Increase on 2016/2017	5%	24%
Band D payment 2017/2018	£141.58	£167.44
Comparison with the 2016/2017 £137.39	£4.19 per year .8p a week	£30.05 per year .57p a week

Following discussion of the merits of the two Options, Councillor Pike proposed, Councillor Goldsworthy seconded and the Committee **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** to Council that it set a budget of £492,856 funded by a precept of £410,450 which showed a 5% increase over the current financial year.

401/16 INTERNAL AUDITOR

Arising from a discussion of the report, it was agreed that a letter of thanks be sent to the Councils' current Internal Auditor.

Councillor Pike proposed, Councillor Hawken seconded and the Committee **RESOLVED** that the Council seek an alternative Internal Auditor for the current and next financial year. Should the timetabling of the tendering process require it, that the Town Clerk in conjunction with the Mayor be given delegated authority to approve the appointment of an Internal Auditor.

402/16 LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME

Following discussion, Councillor Goldsworthy proposed, Councillor L Shrubsole seconded that the Council confirms that it has in place the documentation and seeks to obtain FOUNDATION status under the Local Council Award Scheme with a view to obtaining QUALITY status.

Councillor Hawken proposed, Councillor Pike seconded that the Council puts in place the additional documentation and seeks QUALITY status. This proposal was put to the vote and not adopted.

The original proposal was modified with the additional of "within one year"

Councillor Goldsworthy proposed, Councillor L Shrubsole seconded that the Committee **RESOLVED** that the Council confirms that it has in place the documentation and seeks to obtain FOUNDATION status under the Local Council Award Scheme with a view to obtaining QUALITY status within one year.

403/16 FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT

Councillor Pike proposed, the Mayor seconded and the Committee **RESOLVED** to approve the new format Financial Risk Management schedule.

404/16 PAYMENTS SCHEDULE

Councillor J Shrubsole proposed, Councillor Pike seconded and the Committee **APPROVED** the Schedule for Payment

405/16 CORRESPONDENCE

Shaping Our Future – NHS consultation. The Councillors updated on the meeting earlier in the day and noted that the item was scheduled to appear on the Cornwall Council Community Network Panel meeting on Monday 23rd January 2017 at Menheniot Village Hall. It was agreed the Town Clerk would recirculate the meeting notification.

406/16 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee would be held at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday 21st March 2017.