



Meeting (No)	Full Council Meeting (10)
Time & Date	24 th January 2023 at 6pm
Location	Neston Town Hall
Draft - Minutes	

Present: Cllrs Kynaston (Mayor), Davies, Flockhart (from item 130), Griffiths, Hinks, Jones, Marple, Warner and Wastell and A Kunaj, Council Manager and T Godfrey, Finance Manager and RFO.

PART 1: Items considered in the presence of the press and public

126 Apologies for absence

Resolved to approve absences from Cllrs Cragg (personal) and Hudspeth (personal).

Absent: Cllrs Doughty and Samuels.

127 Questions and comments from residents: None.

128 Minutes of the meeting

Resolved to approve the minutes of the meetings held on 29.11.22, 08.12.2022 and 16.12.22 as true and accurate records. The Mayor signed the minutes.

129 Declarations of Interest: None.

130 Council Budget requirement for 2023/24 Council year

The projected outturn, budgets and draft precept figures were presented by the RFO and considered by Members, who noted that the papers included the amendments as recommended by the F&A committee (see items 132 a & b). Further expenditure was due for payment in the 2022/23 financial year, however it was confirmed later at the meeting that, although due, could be spread over a 3-year period.

A member of the public was present briefly at the meeting and shortly after speaking about a police matter left the meeting.

Cllr Flockhart joined the meeting.


131 Precept 2023/24

Reports; a summary sheet, EMRs and an overview report along with indications of band D rates, were presented by the RFO and considered by Members.

The RFO explained that EMR reductions were made as the transaction occurs. He also expressed concern over the reduction being made to the general reserves, as it was inconsistent with the Council's General Reserves policy.

The Chairs of the committees agreed to look at further 2023/24 budget reductions and will bring suggestions to the next meeting, however Members expressed concerns that by doing this, it would restrict the Council from fulfilling its pledge to the public via the 'Have Your Say' consultation, to act. A reduction of £1,000 for each budget was suggested; for 4131 Asset & Event Management and 4140 Market & Promotion.

Mayor's initial and date


28 FEB 2023¹

Members will look at the figures again at the meeting scheduled for Monday 30th January and confirm the 2023/24 precept request.

132 Recommendations from F&A Committee 13.12.2022

- a Members considered the F&A committee recommend amendments (item 45a) for the Council's EMRs;

Resolved that;

327TH/Market to reduce by £3K leaving available £8,835

328 Notice Boards £200 to be used instead of increase budget (4315 requested £3K)

333 New Homes Bonus £2,256 to be used to replace boards providing £2,456 in EMR

334 TH/Market £25K reduced by £10K leaving £15K

336 Pop-up Banner £700 reduce to nil

339 Queens event £1,331 to be used for Coronation (4367 + £6k=£7,331)

An overall EMR reduction of £13,700.

- b Members considered the F&A committee recommended amendments (item 45b) for the requested committee budgets:

Resolved that;

- i. 4180 Allotments from £5,500 to £1,500

4135 Notice Board from £3K to £500 (EMRs held £2,456, making £2,956 available)

4367 Coronation from £10K to £6K (EMR £1,331 held, making £7,331 available)

4414 Kitchen Equip from £1,500 to nil

4131 A&E Management from £4K to £3K (a reduction of one enhanced market event)

4232 De-silting from £6K to nil

An overall budget reduction of £19,000.

Resolved that;

- ii. The start date of the Ranger post is deferred.

Members agreed for item 132 b iv to be deferred pending the 30.01.23 budget meeting. "iv. To meet the Council's financial requirements for the financial year 2023/24 that application for a precept request of £350,320 be made."

133 Finance

- a **Resolved** to approve expenditure of £71,406.38 net from the Council's current account authorised by the RFO from 01.10.22 to 30.11.22, and Equals card payment of £779.54 net from 01.10.22 to 30.11.22.

Mayor's initial and date



2 8 FEB 2023 2

- b The current account income of £8,619.40 net from 01.10.22 to 30.11.22 was noted.
- c **Resolved** to agree the reconciliation of the Council's three bank accounts to 30.11.22.

The Mayor signed the balancing figures.

134 Advertising Budget

Resolved to approve the amount of £335.00 for advertising, using budget line 4056.

135 Minutes of Committee meetings

Members noted the minutes of the meetings of;

- a. HR Committee 29.11.2022.
- b. F&A Committee 13.12.22

136 Any other Items

137 Exclusion of the Press and Public

Resolved that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (as extended by s.100 of the Local Government Act 1972), the public and accredited representatives of newspapers be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by virtue of the paragraph specified against the items (paragraph 3 – financial or business affairs of any particular person). "To consider that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (as extended by s.100 of the Local Government Act 1972), the public and accredited representatives of newspapers be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by virtue of the paragraph specified against the items (paragraph 3 – financial or business affairs of any particular person)." *Removed "to "*

PART 2: Items to be considered in the absence of the press and public

138 Insurance

- a **Resolved** that;

Council will continue their contract with Zurich Insurance for a three-year term.

139 Chief Officer

Resolved to approve the Chief Officer job description.

The RFO left the meeting.

Resolved to approve generic contract of employment for all Neston Town Council employees.

Meeting closed at 7.20pm

Signed  Dated **28 FEB 2023**