



Meeting (No)

Time & Date

Location

FULL COUNCIL and BUDGET (7)

6.30pm, 23rd January 2018

**Neston Town Hall, High Street,
Neston**

Minutes

Present: Councillors Cllrs Kynaston (Mayor), Carter, Chapman, Clayton, Cray, Edwards, Fleetwood, Griffiths, Hine, Marlow, Pilley and Warner and Mrs Kunaj (Council Manager)

In attendance: One resident, Mr Hadley

- 101 Questions and comments from residents:** Mr Hadley read out his statement to Council. A copy was provided for the records and for consideration by the Places committee.

Mr Hadley requested for the Council to amend its request to CWaC council's highways department 'for a review of traffic flows, and reconsideration of the A540 junction with Raby Park Road', and requested that the traffic survey includes the whole stretch of the A540 including the Hinderton Road junction.

102 Apologies for absence

Resolved: To accept apologies from Cllrs Barker (business), Howe (personal) Lloyd (business) Roberts (business) and Yarker (personal)

103 Declarations of Interest: None.

104 Minutes of the last meeting

Resolved: To approve the minutes of 14.11.17 as a true and correct record. The Mayor signed the minutes.

105 Council Manager's Report

- A GDPR briefing has been scheduled to take place on Monday 29th January at 10am, all are welcome. The Council Manager is to be informed in advance should Councillors wish to attend.
- SLCC annual subscription has been renewed £233 +VAT
- A new office chair has been purchased £89.99 + VAT. This expenditure will come from budget line 4072 Office Equipment. Funds available £233, projected end of year figure £450.
- The Council Manager has completed an introductory webinar session with PKF Littlejohn LLP, Council's new external auditor. Free of charge.

The Council Manager has booked onto the following training sessions:

- *Count down to Compliance webinar, GDPR* – 08.02.18 £30+VAT (SLCC members)
- *Appraisals – A Modern Makeover & Motivation* - 23.04.18 £135 (ChALC)

- 106 Chairman's Announcements** were received. The Mayor had attended various engagements to include the Showman's Guild, and was pleased to inform councillors that she had learned more about the strict regulations and audits that govern the visiting fairs. These should reassure residents that they operate under a strict code of conduct.

Chairman's initial and date

 20/3/18

The Deputy Mayor had attended as the Council's representative at a meeting with the Police Crime commissioner. At the meeting it was advised that more Police surgeries and regular contact with the community will take place.

107 Parkgate Ward Town Councillor vacancy

The Mayor welcomed Cllr John Edwards who has been elected as one of the Town Council's Parkgate Ward Members.

108 Budget

Council received its budget to date and variance budget reports. The RFO was requested to provide a more detailed explanation for budget line 4055 IT/Computer Maintenance.

109 General Reserves Policy

a. Council considered the General Reserves – background report.

b. **Resolved:** To amend the current General Reserves policy

Resolved: That for the precept calculation;

- The working capital / general reserves are reviewed on an annual basis
- The Precept Task & Finish Group in liaison with the RFO make recommendation to the Policy committee on the appropriate level of working capital to be applied
- A minimum working capital of 16.5% of the gross budget required to be applied

110 Precept

a Council considered the budgets, RFO's draft budget 2018/19 and supporting information. It was apparent that with the imminent loss of CTRG and other income sources, such as the asset management funding, and increased costs to maintain the assets along with running costs, reducing the budget without increasing the precept level was unsustainable.

b The minutes of the Policy Committee of 19.12.17 were noted.

c **Resolved to reject** the Policy committee recommendation for Council to make a request to CWaC for a precept of £221,787.

It was noted that the Policy committee did not know the Local Tax Base figure at the time when the recommendation was made.

d **Unanimously Resolved:** To apply to the Principal Authority for a net precept of £223,530.

The effect of this will result in a rate increase of 3.9%, an annual increased cost of £1.47 for Band D property owners.

Council asked for a note of thanks to be recorded in the minutes, to the Council Manager and the RFO for their work in putting the calculations together and for their support to the working group and to the councillors in helping them understand these complicated calculations.

111 Recommendations from Committees

Chairman's initial and date

 22/3/18

Policy committee 19.12.17

Resolved: To approve the following draft Policies:

1. Document Retention (item 109a)
2. Privacy and Accessibility Policy for the website (item 109b)
3. Safeguarding Policy (item 109c)

Council requested that the policies be reviewed at least annually.

112 Election of Members to Policy Committee (FC 16.05.17 item 12, 27.06.17 item 47, 14.11.17 item 92)

Resolved: To appoint Cllr Warner as a member of the Policy committee.

113 Standing Committees

a) No other requests were made by members for nomination to alternative committees, and / or retirement from committees.

b) **Resolved:** To appoint Cllr Edwards to the Places committee.

114 Minutes of Committees & Working Groups

Council noted the minutes

- a *Places committee: 28.11.17*
- b *People committee: 05.12.17 & 05.01.18*
- c *Resources committee 09.01.18*

115 Other Items: None.

116 Next meeting: Council noted the next scheduled meeting would take place on 20.03.18.

Part 2: Items considered in the absence of the press and public

117 Exclusion of the Press and Public

Resolved To exclude members of public and press for the remaining items because of likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

118 Recommendation from Policy committee

Resolved: That the appointment of the Finance Manager, Trevor Godfrey be confirmed.

Meeting closed at 7.45pm

Signature



Date

22/3/18