

HORDEN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting held 5th January 2017

Present: Councillor D Nicol (Chairman)
 Councillors R Bagnall, C Cain, E Connor, D Langan, I Roberts and D Tait.

Staff: Mr P Davison (Clerk to the Council),

Also Present:

HPC 16/17/103 **Apologies for Absence.**
RESOLVED: Apologies RECEIVED and approved for Councillors W Smith, J Clark, G Robson, W Hill, J White and E Wood.

HPC 16/17/104 **Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda.**
 There were no declarations of interest.

HPC 16/17/105 **Minutes of the Budget Sub-Committee Meeting held 20th December 2016.**
 A copy of which had been circulated to each Member.
RESOLVED: That the Minutes be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman; subject to the removal of Councillor R Bagnall from being present.

HPC 16/17/106 **Public Participation.**
 There were no members of the public present.

HPC 16/17/107 **Medium Term Financial Strategy 2016.**
 Members considered the Medium Term Financial Strategy recommended by the Budget Sub-Committee. The Clerk summarised the changes to the existing document.
RESOLVED: that the Medium Term Financial Strategy be APPROVED.

HPC 16/17/108 **Fee Setting 2017/18.**
 Members considered the proposed fees and charges recommended by the Budget Sub-Committee. The Clerk summarised the changes to the existing fees.
RESOLVED: that

- (i) The recommendations of the Budget Sub-Committee with reference to minute BSC 16/17/007 (i), (ii), (iv), (v), (vi), (vii) and (viii) be APPROVED.
- (ii) The licensable rating value of Horden Cricket Social Club be reviewed and further considered in the drafting of a new license agreement.

HPC 16/17/109 **Strategic Plan 2017-21.**
 Members considered at great length the draft Strategic Plan 2017-21 previously circulated. The Budget Sub-committee Members and the Clerk summarised the implications of the priorities highlighted.

Efficiencies on day to day budgets would undergo a major review in 2017, however the Clerk advised that the council's budget and precept levels compared to its relatively large asset base was disproportionate and becoming increasingly difficult to manage. Additional consideration was given to the ongoing maintenance of Sunderland Road Playing Fields and its assets.

The Council considered its current general and earmarked reserves previously circulated . It was noted that balances had significantly decreased since 2015 and that the General Reserve would be required to meet any overspend with the cemetery extension project scheduled for 2017.

Councillor E Connor abstained from voting.

RESOLVED: that

- (i) The draft Strategic Plan 2017-21 be APPROVED, subject to;
- (ii) £20,000 in the 2016 Capital Purchases budget for the Sunderland Road Pavilion roof refurbishment be vired into the Pavilion Reserve.
- (iii) £30,000 for the Sunderland road roof refurbishment to be considered for inclusion in addition to the 2017/18 budget option to be approved.
- (iv) General and Earmarked Reserve amounts and virements be APPROVED.

HPC
16/17/110

Draft Budget/Precept 2017/18.

Members considered the options presented regarding the draft budget and impact on the 2017 precept at great length.

The Clerk answered questions presented and explained that due to various internal and external factors, pressures on budgets were rapidly increasing and would do so in future and this needed to be placed in accordance with the council's approved Strategic Plan.

Members were mindful of the balance at continuing to deliver the day to day operation of council services, loss of revenue streams and the need to minimise precept increases, accepting that high precept increases were likely unless major service reduction or cessation occurred.

Members considered the future arrangements for the Pavilion at Sunderland Road and options presented at great length. It was felt that on balance, it was more cost effective to continue the refurbishment and include the replacement roof as a priority for 2017.

Councillor E Connor abstained from voting.

RESOLVED: that

- (i) Budget Option 1 be APPROVED, subject to
- (ii) £30,000 to be included in addition to the Option 1 budget in the Parks Major Schemes budget for the purposes of refurbishing the Sunderland Road Pavilion roof.
- (iii) The 2017/18 Precept be APPROVED at £492,097.

The Meeting concluded at 8.35pm