

HORDEN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting held 8th January 2019

Present: Councillor I Roberts (Chairman).
 Councillors C Cain, J Clark, E Connor, D Langan, F Leadbitter, W Morrow, D Tait, L Williams, E Wood.
Staff: Mr K Wilkinson (Clerk to the Council), Miss G Rowe (RFO/Deputy Clerk),

HPC **Apologies for Absence.**

18/19/142 **RESOLVED:** Apologies RECEIVED and APPROVED for Councillors R Bagnall, I Mclean, W Smith, A Turner.

HPC **Declarations of Interest.**

18/19/143 Cllr J Clark declared a prejudicial interest on item HPC 18/19/149, Contractual Occupation of Council owned Premises.
 Cllr E Connor declared a prejudicial interest on item HPC 18/19/149, Contractual Occupation of Council owned Premises.
 Cllr C Cain declared a prejudicial interest on item HPC 18/19/149, Contractual Occupation of Council owned Premises.

HPC **Hornden Parish Council 2019/20 Budget Setting Report.**

18/19/144 Members considered the report which highlighted the Council's current financial situation and future challenges and risks facing the Council.

The RFO advised that the report had been amended from the initial first version to include the items already considered a priority by Council.

The RFO advised Members that the report should be referred to and used in conjunction with the budget setting process.

RESOLVED: That the information be NOTED.

HPC **2019/20 Strategic Plan.**

18/19/145 Members considered their 2019/20 Strategic Plan which set the Council's 2019/20 priorities. The RFO advised Members of the implication on the precept should Members de-prioritise some options.

It was **RESOLVED:**

- i. To de-prioritise Sunderland Road Play Area with a view of sourcing alternative means of funding.
- ii. Subject to the amendment the 2019/20 Strategic Plan is APPROVED.

At 6:22pm the Meeting adjourned.

At 6:30pm the Meeting re-opened.

HPC **Draft 2019/20 Budget/Precept Options.**

18/19/146 Members considered the three draft budget options presented by the RFO, each option included the total budget, precept demand and Band D increase/decrease.

Members discussed the inclusion of inflation, at an estimated 2.1%, nationally agreed wage increases and associated on costs and the resulting impact of that on the Councils 2019/20 budget, whilst striving to maintain a reasonable and affordable increase to local council taxpayers.

It was **RESOLVED:**

- i. To APPROVE Budget Option 2.
- ii. To APPROVE the 2019/20 Precept of £503,917.

HPC **Exclusion of Press and Public.**

18/19/147 **RESOLVED:** that in accordance with Section 2 (1) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve information prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

The Chairman under Standing Order 5(a)(vi) moved without notice to alter the order of business on the agenda for reasons of urgency or expedience for the following items.

HPC **Staffing Update.**

18/19/148 The Clerk provided Members with a verbal update in connection with the Gardener/Gravedigger vacancy and outstanding issues in relation to the SWC Manager.
RESOLVED: That the information is NOTED.

At 6:46pm Cllrs C Cain, J Clark, E Connor left the Meeting.

HPC **Contractual Occupation of Council owned Premises.**

18/19/149 Members considered the Clerk's Report. Members discussed the historical arrangements at length.
It was **RESOLVED:**

- i. That the Clerk is given delegated authority to consult with the staff members concerned to ascertain the value for money aspect and report back to Council.
- ii. That the Clerk is given delegated authority to consult with the staff member concerned to review the contractual status of the occupation of the council premises and report back to Council.

Meeting concluded at 7:54pm