

Whitchurch Town Council

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EXTRAORDINARY FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of an extra ordinary meeting of Whitchurch Town Council held
Thursday 7th January 2021, via Zoom commencing at 6pm.

Present:

Cllrs Chesters, Cooper, Duffy, Hall, Haynes, Martin, McDonnell, Radford, Sinnott, Vasey

In attendance:

Zoë Dean – Acting Town Clerk
Gillian Bailey – Locum Support Officer
Alison Proctor – Finance Officer
2 x members of the public

In line with the Council's meeting recording policy, the Chair advised that this meeting was being recorded. The Chair asked if anyone was recording the meeting. Cllr Hall requested permission to record.

154. Apologies

Cllr Snell – ill health
Cllr Hamlyn – prior engagement
Cllr Gregory-Peake – Family issue

155. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

156. Public Participation

Following a proposal by Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr Hall, it was **WTC/158/2021 RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders to allow any members of the public to address the meeting.

No members of the public wished to speak at this point.

It was proposed by Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr McDonnell and **WTC/159/2021 RESOLVED** to reinstate standing orders.

157. Budget 2021/2022

Members received the following report:

The expected, estimated, income over expenditure out turn for financial year 2020/21 is £123,037 under budget.

The majority of this is accounted for by unspent funds in the Civic Development budget. Loss of income has been supported by a £46,592 refund in business rates against a budget of £52,000.

Initials

From this:

£30,000 is to be returned to the Harry Richards fund (£15,000 unspent civic development, £15,000 unspent Youth Services)
£10,000 Earmarked donation for Centre North East
£35,000 unspent civic development to either be earmarked or returned to general reserves.

Giving a balance of £48,037 to be returned to general reserves. It was recommended that some of this could be used to avoid an increase in precept.

Savings in this years' budget can be made:

£40,000 reduction in cost of grounds maintenance contract
£7,000 on youth services as it has been agreed that 2021/22 costs would be funded using the Harry Richards fund.

Members discussed the unspent funds of £50,000 in the civic development budget. There was disagreement over whether this had been set aside for unforeseen maintenance and to build up a reserve or for the project to install raked seating.

It was proposed by Cllr Vasey that £35,000 be returned to earmarked reserves for its original purpose.

It was proposed by Cllr Martin that £35,000 be returned to general reserves.

Following further discussion Cllr Martin withdrew his proposal. Cllr Vasey withdrew his proposal.

It was proposed by Cllr Sinnott, seconded by Cllr Hall and **WTC160/2021 RESOLVED** that £35,000 be earmarked for future repairs to the Civic Centre should they become necessary.

Members discussed the replacement of street lighting to LED. There should be some significant savings in electricity. Future plans could involve using savings on energy costs or general reserves to continue with replacements.

Cllr Chesters advised that the tax base had decreased which meant that more reserves would need to be used to support no increase in precept.

Following a proposal by Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr Haynes it was **WTC161/2021 RESOLVED** to take forward the budget as presented to the Full Council meeting on 21st January 2021.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 18:51.

Signed

Dated