

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18TH DECEMBER 2019 AT 7.24pm THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GREENACRE CENTRE, STOTFOLD

Committee Members present: A Cooper (Chairman)

B Collier

Mrs S Bundock

M Cooper

S Hayes

B Saunders

Also present: Councillor S Buck and the Town Clerk – Mrs K Elliott-Turner

51/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs Hyde.

52/19 DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS INTERESTS ON MATTERS CONTAINED IN THE AGENDA

There were none. Members were reminded that if at any time during the meeting they feel they have an interest in an item being discussed, they should declare it at that point.

53/19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & RESPONSES

None present.

54/19 CLERK'S REPORT, CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED AND MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION

Nothing to report.

55/19 STAFF TRAINING – CONFERENCE

Members were asked to approve the Clerk's attendance at the SLCC's Leadership in Action Conference 10th to 12th June 2020, Kenilworth, Warwickshire. Topics include: Leadership Think Tank – Addressing the Key Leadership Challenges for the Local Council Sector, Resilient People Make Resilient Teams, Extreme Leadership – Improve your performance without burning yourself out, Unconscious Bias – impact on individuals and teams, Mental Health in the Workplace with ACAS, Peer Review, Greenfields to an Inspiring Community, Responding to the Changing High Street. Cost £443 plus vat, plus mileage.

RESOLVED that the Clerk attends the SLCC's Leadership in Action Conference, 10th to 12th June 2020, at £443 plus vat, plus mileage. Funds from Staff Training and Clerk's Expenses budgets.

56/19 PRECEPT FOR 2020/2021 FINANCIAL YEAR

Members considered a report from the Clerk, with her calculations for the required precept to be requested from Central Beds Council for the financial year 2020/2021, based on requested committee budgets, for recommendation to council.

The Band D property figure for the current year for Stotfold is 3248, increasing to 3316 for 2020/21. The proposed Precept increase of £23,480 from 2019/2020 is an increase of 4.8%, equating to a 2.7% increase on Band D figures, or an increase of £4.01 per Band D property over the year, which is £0.07p increase per week.

The Clerk advised that proposed actions have been taken to reduce the Precept figure, as follows: reduction in staff salary figure required by £12,000 as the S106 agreement for the Greenacre Centre includes this sum per year for 9 years; the S106 agreement also allows for £205 salary insurance (fidelity) for a period of 9 years, plus £1,144.64 for Greenacre Centre building insurance for a period of 20 years, giving a total reduction to the insurance budget requirement of £1,350. A further proposed reduction of £20,000 is made from the requested Recreation Grounds, Public Lands & Lighting Committee – Rec Rolling Improvements Earmarked Reserve figure, as there are other S106 funds available for recreation and play equipment funding, should it be required.

RECOMMENDED that the Stotfold Town Council precept figure of £509,651 for 2020/2021 be submitted to Central Bedfordshire Council. This figure has taken into account the proposed actions to reduce the figure, which was approved for recommendation.

57/19 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES, RELEVANT TO THIS COMMITTEE ONLY

Nothing to report.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.38pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED