



NEWPORT (Shropshire) TOWN COUNCIL

DRAFT UNTIL SIGNED AT SUBSEQUENT MEETING

MINUTES OF A MEETING RESOURCE & FINANCE COMMITTEE

held on
Wednesday 30th August 2017
at
The Guildhall, High Street, Newport

PRESENT: Cllrs: Phil Norton
Lyn Fowler
Ian Perry
Tim Pryce

IN ATTENDANCE: Lee Jakeman – Town Clerk
Sheila Atkinson – Deputy town Clerk

R&F/17/17-18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllr Nelson (attending Telford & Wrekin Council planning meeting on behalf of Newport Town Council).

R&F/18/17-18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - Nil

R&F/19/17-18 MINUTES

Members **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 17th May and 19th July 2017 were a true record.

R&F/20/17-18 PUBLIC SESSION

There being no members of the public present wishing to ask questions the meeting continued.

R&F/21/17-18 TOWN COUNCIL FINANCES

- a. Members noted receipt of and discussed the latest Income & Expenditure Report. Members noted that a few budgets might need reconsideration later in the year but felt in general that, where there were likely to be small overspends in individual budget lines it was likely that these could be offset by small underspends in closely related budget lines.
- b. Members noted receipt of the 5 year estimates report and agreed that they would provide individual input to the Clerk regarding future expenditure over the course of the next few weeks regarding specific budget lines.

It was noted that there was in relatively general terms a 'steady state' level of expenditure over the next few years (albeit with some peaks and troughs). Furthermore, members noted that over the next 18 months or so the increase in the number of houses within the parish of Newport is likely to increase significantly (continuing as it has done on the past few years) before tapering off (much of the new build taking place is actually taking place outside the parish of Newport) this would lead to a wider spread of the tax burden.

R&F/22/17-18 BURIAL GROUND

Members noted receipt of a report summarising the correspondence with MPs to encourage a change in the legislation regarding the re-use of burial ground. Members noted the continued efforts of the Clerk to find ways of providing suitable and affordable burial land for future generations.

R&F/23/17-18 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Members **RESOLVED** :

“That in view of the special nature of the business about to be conducted, (that is, is contractual matters relating to street lighting) it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw”.

CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

(Note: elements of the discussion and any contractual details are confidential however the nature of decisions made are for public record.)

STREET LIGHTING – UPGRADES TO LED TECHNOLOGY

- R&F/24/17-18 1) Members noted receipt of a report on the opportunities to increase the pace of replacing street lights with LED technology to reduce the ongoing electricity costs in future years.

Members **RESOLVED** to:

- a) Upgrade as many lanterns to LED as financially viable (with funding already allocated) over the remainder of the current financial year:
 - i) **Conduct column inspection for the steel and aluminium columns (£3168.00 ex VAT).**
 - ii) **Should any of the columns be identified as ‘near to failing’ then finance their near immediate replacement (with LED upgrade) and, use any remainder of the combined total of the Earmarked reserve and remaining revenue budget to upgrade those lanterns that are currently the most expensive to operate.**
- 2) Members considered that there were clear financial advantages to replacing the entire inventory of street lights and were mindful that Full Council support would be required to spend a further £90,000 in the current year from the General Reserve. In addition members felt that there should be some matters that would need clarification before embarking on a complete upgrade:
 - a) Is the Council confident that there are no other technologies on the near horizon that might offer better savings?
 - b) Are there any adverse environmental impacts on a change of light (is light pollution increased, lessened or not change very much)?
 - c) Is there now an opportunity to reduce the number of street lights (because the new lights are better)?
- 3) Subject to some further discussion and clarification of the points above members **RESOLVED** to:

Recommend to the Town Council that it undertakes a programme to upgrade all the Town Council street lighting to LED technology within the current financial year.

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