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MINUTES

of the meeting of the Finance Working Party

held on Tuesday 27th November 2018, in the Yarrow Room, Town Hall, Lewes at 7:00pm.

PRESENT Cllrs M Chartier (elected Chairman); H Jones; Dr G Mayhew; R Murray; S Murray, and

(not appointed to Working Party) Catlin.

In attendance: S Brigden (Town Clerk |TC|)

FWP2018/01 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN: Cllr Chartier was elected Chairman.

FWP2018/02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies had been submitted by Cllr R O'Keeffe

who had work commitments.

FWP2018/03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: There were none.

FWP2018/04 QUESTIONS: There were none.

FWP2018/05 REMIT OF THE WORKING PARTY:

The working party was asked to consider the detail of estimated expenditure and income for the Council's operations, and to agree a budget and level of Council Tax precept for the 2019/20 year, for recommendation to Council.

The Working Party was asked to ensure appropriate provision and agree items constituting the Council Plan for 2019/20.

FWP2018/06

As the Working Party was to discuss low-level detail of the Council's finances, and during the meeting personal details related to past and present employees, and proposed expenditure on contracts for supply of goods and services (potentially commercially-sensitive) might be disclosed, the Chairman proposed, and it was consequently **resolved that**:

FWP2018/06.1 "In view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted during the remainder of the meeting, pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960; any members of the press or public present be excluded and instructed to withdraw. The nature of this business is: personal details related to past and present employees, and proposed expenditure on contracts for supply of goods and services"

FWP2018/07 BUSINESS OF THE MEETING:

- In the year of introduction (2013/14) of the Government's Council Tax Reduction Support Grant (CTRSG) scheme (to offset government changes to calculation factors), Lewes District Council (LDC) had passed-on the whole amount which had been sufficient to maintain the Town Council's "band 'D' equivalent" precept unchanged. However; this grant had reduced significantly each year and was to reduce from the current year by an as-yet unknown value for 2019/20. The Town Council (LTC) therefore faced an enforced increase to precept to simply maintain budgeted nett expenditure at the prevailing level. TC advised that whilst parishes would normally have received specific figures from LDC by this point, he was able to make an informed estimate of the likely sum by reference to LDC reports in the public domain.
- The Working Party considered the service budget estimates for 2019/20. Alongside the Council's financial systems generally ("a model of good practice..."), the assumptions and basic principles and the process of compiling the recommended budget had again been commended by the Council's independent Internal Auditor (IA) during a recent inspection.
- 3 It was acknowledged that there was a continuing need to address the proper maintenance of the Council's physical assets and adequately fund continuing services,

and to continue the restoration of the General Fund with further allocation of precept. Building and engineering works were of particular concern in this regard, as the Council's assets had all been taken-on with considerable historic dilapidation, and contexts such as heritage listing status. Also; applications for grant from community organizations continued to increase in number and value as other sources, such as principal councils, diminished.

- With these issues in mind, Councillors considered the draft annual plan (appended); proposed contributions to reserves, and operational requirements, in detail. The draft budgets presented took account of:
- Provision for known/anticipated increases in public Utility supplies, NNDR etc.
- · Adjustments for completed and imminent (previously-approved) projects.
- Provision for elements identified in the Council's forward plan.
- Appropriate reserves for agreed/anticipated projects.
- Provision for anticipated increases in insurance and other overhead costs etc.
- Provision for known increase in employers' pension and NI contributions.
- Refinement of overhead allocation to services and base service cost estimates.
- Recognition of anticipated adjustment to salaries (a national agreement had been reached through the local government joint negotiating body the previous year, covering both 2018/19 and 2019/20).
- Provision for known and anticipated increases in cost of contracted services.
- Provision for increased small grants fund, to recognize the increasing number of applications received.
- Re-establishment of exhausted reserves and continuation of prudent contributions.
- Provision for costs of assets or services acquired through devolution.
- Fees & charges tariff increase of 5% proposed, rounded to an appropriate value for the service concerned.
- The draft budget combined specific amounts for known costs and committed project items, with prudent allowances for reserves, and provided for a flexible response to unforeseen issues. The Council's forward plan was considered, and it was understood that this was as expansive as could be practically undertaken.
- Members of the working party were keen to make prudent estimates and maintain some flexibility in the budget, although concerned to keep increases within reasonable limits. Provision was made for all 'unavoidable' increases to give a base value, and 'live' modelling of various options was conducted throughout the meeting with the implications and overall impact carefully assessed at each point. Borrowing was also considered, available through the Public Works Loans Board, but not considered appropriate at this time.
- 7 The budget* finally arrived-at for recommendation to Council was agreed unanimously, and resulted in a precept requirement of £1,097,216. This represents an increase on the current year of 5.88%, with the actual cost to a Band 'D' household rising to £178.18 per year. This equates to an extra 19 pence per week

*Details of underlying assumptions; calculations, and resulting budget are appended.

FWP2018/08 CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS: Council would be asked to consider the recommended budget and precept (as above) at its meeting on 13th December 2018. FWP2018/09 The Chair declared the meeting closed. The meeting ended at 8:50pm

Signed:

Date:

Appendix 1

	100%	384,542	64,030	36,325	488,847							
ESERVES and PROJECTS												
	BALANCE	BALANCE	BALANCE	BALANCE	BALANCE	BALANCE			estimated	PROPOSED	est Funds	Allocated
	b/fwd	b/fwd	b/fwd	b/fwd	b/fwd	b/fwd	Contribution	Expenditure	c/fwd	CONTRIB'N	Available	to
	@ 31/3/13	@ 31/3/14	@ 31/3/15	@ 31/3/16	@ 31/3/17	@ 31/3/18	2018/19	2018/19	@ 31/3/19	2019/20	2019/20	?
Reserve funds										£ precepted		service
R1 Town Hall maintenance	63,118	83,340	147,510	0	0	0	60,000		60,000	60,000	120,000	40
R2 All Saints maintenance	26,800	32,800	38,800	44,800	34,800	18,800	10,000		28,800	10,000	38,800	50
R3 Open spaces	12,060	13,060	14,060	0	3,000	6,000	1,000		7,000	1,000	8,000	70
R4 Priory account	2,500	2,780	3,060	3,192	3,472	0	280		280	280	560	71
R5 Pells lake	11,929	11,929	11,929	11,929	11,929	11,929	0		11,929	20,000	31,929	60
R6 Pells	70,639	80,639	90,639	100,639	100,639	100,639	10,000		110,639	10,000	120,639	60
R7 Commemorations fund	19,500	13,790	12,005	14,005	11,528	8,028	2,000	10,000	28	2,000	2,028	20
R8 Environment ehancement	19,000	21,000	21,355	23,355	25,355	19,370	1,000	2,643	17,727	1,000	18,727	70
R9 Town Clocks	1,200	1,500	1,800	2,100	2,400	0	300		300	1,800	2,100	72
R10 Malling Community Centre	71,000	111,000	193,000	233,000	262,800	299,800	60,000		359,800	78,000	437,800	51
R11 Placeholder for future projects	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	NP
R12 Grit bin grants	2,703	2,583	2,583	2,583	2,583	2,583	0		2,583	0	2,583	NP
R13 Election costs (scheduled)	7,600	5,254	9,054	0	0	0	11,805		11,805	11,000	22,805	20
R14 Devolution (tranche 1 prov'n)	30,000	60,000	78,000	87,455	42,455	0	0		0	0	0	NP
R14A Devolution (tranche 2 prov'n)	0	0	0	0	38,200	66,600	0		66,600	0	66,600	NP
R15 ICT replacement	2,750	3,500	4,250	5,000	5,750	6,500	750		7,250	5,000	12,250	10
R16 Renewable Energy				0	10,000	20,000	10,000		30,000	10,000	40,000	20
Projects:												
P1 'Our Pictures' project			0	0	7,250	0	1,000		1,000	1,000	2,000	20
P2 FoL Plaques	1,200	1,500	1,800	960	150	450	300		750	300	1,050	72
P3 Magic Circle	7,000	14,000	21,000	7,000	7,000	21,000	15,000	36,000	0	0	0	NP
P4 New website					0	4,240	2,000		6,240	2,000	8,240	10
P5 Neighbourhood Plan		0	18,891	12,891	7,401	0	5,000		5,000	1,000	6,000	20
P6 Placeholder for future projects					0	0	0		0	0	0	
P7 Bus service support					0	0	25,000	17,000	8,000	17,000	25,000	20
P8 Allotments site improvements	0	10,000	appr'd to R1	10,000	4,500	0	0		0	0	0	NP
P9 pedestrian crossings	45,000	27,500	27,500	27,500	27,500	52,500	25,000	25,000	52,500	0	52,500	NP
P10 General Fund reinstatement reserve					0		50,000		50,000	50,000	100,000	10
TOTAL	393,999	496,175	697,236	586,409	608,712	638,439	290,435	90,643	838,231	281,380	1,119,611	
GENERAL FUND	383,636	377,056	284,320	238,703	134,064	122,981					121,683	

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LEWES TOWN COUNCIL		Θ	Estimates	2019-20			ANALYSIS ALL COST CENTRES					
nn	A	B COST CENTRE	<i>C</i> 7 10	<i>D</i> 20	<i>E</i> 30	<i>F</i> 40	<i>G</i> 50	<i>H</i> 51	<i>I</i> 60	<i>J</i> 70/71/72	<i>K</i> 80	L
		COST CENTRE	Corporate	Civic	30	Town	A11	Malling	UU	Open	OU	
	RESOUR	CE ACCOUNT	Admin	Admin	Mayoralty	Hall	Saints	C/Centre	Pells	Spaces	Allotments	TOTA
		EXPENDITURE										
		Staff										
	7003/5	Salaries & Wages	47,603	48,348		101,732	86,239	8,282	10,338	36,988	15,252	384,
	7006	National Insurance	4,624	4,770		9,806	7,688	833	929	3,173	1,297	36,
	7007	Superannuation	8,257	8,325	-	15,572	14,918	1,420	1,736	6,113	2,530	64,
	7009	Other staff expenses Staff Tota	3,950	61,443		127,110	108,845	10,535	13,003	46,274	19,079	-,
		Premises Staff Total	1 64,434	01,443	30,123	127,110	100,043	10,555	13,003	40,274	19,079	488,
	6100	Repairs & maintenance	600	0	0	15,000	4,000	1,000	3,500	9,000	1,500	34,
	6101	Grounds maintenance	0	0		4,000	500	1,000	14,500	59,000	8,000	87,
	6102	Electricity	0	0	0	14,000	3,700	1,000	0	500	0	19,
	6103	Gas	0	0	0	12,000	2,800	1,000	0	0	0	15
	6104	Water & drainage	0	0	0	3,200	2,400	700	0	200	1,600	8
	6105	Alarm systems	0	0	0	4,3 00	380	0	0	0	0	4,
	6106	Equipment & furniture etc	600	0	· ·	2,500	9,500	200	0	2,000	0	14,
	6107	Rentals & hire costs	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	
	6108	NNDR	0	0		60,500	3,6 00	4,900	0	0	0	69,
	6109	Premises insurance	1,450	0		14,500	3,700	990	800	1,340	11 100	22,
		Premises Total	1 2,650	0	0	130,000	30,580	10,790	18,800	72,040	11,100	275
	6200	Transport Transport hire costs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	6201	Transport running costs	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	
	6202	Mileage allowances	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Transport Tota		0		0			0	0	0	
		Supplies & services										
	6400	Consumable stores	0	0	0	2,600	1,400	300	0	680	0	4
	6401	Equipment rental	0	0	0	900	480	0	40	8,000	0	9
	6402	Regalia	O	1,200	250	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	6403	Small plant & tools	0	0	0	900	200	50	120	2,325	150	3
	6404	Catering	0	10,000	-	0	750	0	0	0	250	21
	6405	Printing	400	300		450	700	40	0	50	0	2
	6406	Stationery	400	500		500	350	40	50	185	80	2
	6407	Books & periodicals	100	0		0	500	0	0	0	0	2
	6408	Postage	400	250		400	500	80	70	185	100	2
	6409 6410	Telephones/ICT Office equipment	14,000 2,000	250 90		1,400 150	1,100 800	80	100 50	560 120	110 30	17 _.
	6411	General office expenses	2,000	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	3
	2300	Loan charges	0	0		10,056	0	0	0	0	0	10
	6412	Consultants	8,000	_0	0	1,000	400	2,000	770	0	0	12
	6413	Legal expenses	0	2,000	0	2,450	1,600	500	90	500	0	7
	6414	Hospitality	0	0		0	0	o	0	0	0	1
	6415	Members allowances	0	5,000		0	0	0	0	0	0	5
	6416	Miscellaneous expenses	8,000	10,500	1,000	0	500	0	0	11,000	0	31
	6417	Grants & subscriptions etc	5,000	53,000	100	0	0	2,000	10,000	16,600	70	86
	6418	Advertising & promotions	1,000	3,000	0	900	400	0	0	500	650	6
	6419	Traveling & subsistence	120	600		0	0	0	0	50	100	1
		Supplies & services Tota	1 39,420	86,690	15,790	21,706	9,180	5,090	11,290	40,755	1,540	231
	0400	Miscellaneous										
	8100	A/cs written off	4.150	1,020	~	0	1 100	0	150	0	150	
	6500	Miscellaneous insurances Service contributions to reserves	4,150 57,000	1,920		980	1,100	80 78 000	150	460	150	9 201
	n/a 6700	Other miscellaneous expenditure	57,000 1,000	42,000		60 , 000	10 , 000	78 , 000 0	30,000	4,3 80	0	<i>281,</i> 1
	0700	Miscellaneous Tota		43,920		60,980	11,100	78,080	30,150	4,840	150	291
		Miscenaneous Tota	- 02,130	73,740	230	00,700	11,100	, 0,000	50,150	7,040	130	271
		EXPENDITURE TOTAL	168,654	192,053	54,163	339,796	159,705	104,495	73,243	163,909	31,869	1,287
		Expenditure excluding contributions to reserves		150,053	54,163	279,796	149,705	26,495	43,243	159,529	31,869	1,006,
		INCOME		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	*	
	4000	Fees & charges	50	0	0	90,000	52,000	5,000	150	0	0	147
	4001	Rentals	0	0	ŭ.	7,800	0	0	0	0	4,600	12
	4002	Other miscellaneous income	1,200	150		0	0	0	0	0	0	1
		INCOME TOTAL	1,250	150	500	97,800	52,000	5,000	150	0	4,600	161
		NETT OPERATING TOTAL	167,404	191,903	53,663	241,996	107,705	99,495	73,093	163,909	27,269	1,126
											JIREMENT	1,126
	Nett o	perating total excluding contributions to reserves	110,404	149,903	53,663	181,996	97,705	21,495	43,093	159,529	27,269	845
	a	apportioned adjustment grant from LDC	4,343	4,978		6,278	2,794	2,581	1,896	4,252	707	29
		Nett operating total less adjustment grant	163,061	186,925	52,271	235,718	104,911	96,914	71,197	159,657	26,562	1,097
											PRECEPT	1,097
		er head of population (2011 census) 17,297	,	£11.09		£13.99	£6.23	£,5.75	£4.23	£9.48	£1.58	£6
		to a diagram and the part of the second of t	(27.10	C21 17	CO 71	(20.20	C17 40	C1 (1 (C11 07	(26.62	C4 40	C10
	A 10.1 10.0 10.0 10.0 10.0 10.0 10.0 10.	perating total per Band D equiv't at 6,157.90 CEPT total per Band D equiv't at 6,157.90	,	£31.16 £30.36		£39.30 £38.28	£17.49 £17.04	£16.16 £15.74	£11.87 £11.56	£26.62 £25.93	£4.43 £4.31	£182 £178

COUNCIL PLAN 2019/20 DRAFT

Status update

Lewes Town Council proposes to initiate and complete (where possible and practical), or continue, the following major areas of work in the year 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019.

These are in addition to various projects and initiatives itemised in the Council's budgets and accounts, and represent larger-scale activities deserving special attention.

			STATUS	DRAFT 2019/20		
	Project	description	at November 2018			
1	Town Hall repairs & conservation	Major roof repairs/replacement to Assembly Room and Corn Exchange Works required for safety and integrity of building.	All main works completed	Replace boilers; Council Chamber redecoration and replace carpet; Corn Exchange and Lecture Room replace lighting; Yarrow Room replace carpet		
2	Pells Lake ecology project	Improvements to water quality. Introduction of aquatic plants W/Party remit to consider structural integrity of lake perimeter.partially completed – specialist report obtained		pending commencement of 3rd-party works in locality to achieve best VFM – links to item 3		
3	Pells Recreation Ground and kiosk/café development (with Santon Group and others)	Engagement with Santon Group and others to improve the "urban realm" in the area as an integral component of necessary flood-defence works; taking the opportunity to replace children's play equipment and introduce equipment for a wider age-range, and to provide an enhanced café facility for the swimming pool, recreation ground, and surrounding parkland.	PPCA drafting list of aspirations to inform brief for architects. Replacement Multiplay equipment and two-bay swing unit for Recreation Ground on order - installation expected before Christmas.	PPCA drafting list of aspirations to inform brief for architects. Replacement Multiplay equipment and two-bay swing unit for Recreation Ground on order - installation expected before Christmas.		
4	Malling (Bridgeview) Community Centre refurbishment	To carry out a comprehensive refurbishment of the community centre, with modern heating and lighting, with improved facilities for community use, including more flexible interior spaces and better integration of the sports changing-rooms with the adjoining sports pitches and recreation ground.	Planning consent granted 31st October 2018. Working Party scheduled to meet 14th November 2018. Potential grant funding investigations ongoing. Management models under review.	Grants being investigated. Finance, build and management reccomendations to Council December 2018. Works anticipated May 2018. Estimated 6-month duration		
5	Commemorations:	To engage with, and inspire, appropriate community recognition of National commemoration of the Centenary of the outbreak of the first World War (2014). Research commission re additional names for War memorial – ongoing; end date 2018 Centenary of the signing of the Treaty of Versaille (2019)	Working Party scheduled for 13th November 2018. Programme previously agreed nearing completion. Submissions for 2019 under consideration.	Programme agreed nearing completion. W-pty request to Council December 2018 for continuing mandate		
6	Neighbourhood Plan (with Community partners)	Development of a Neighbourhood Plan for Lewes under provisions of the Localism Act 2011	Examiner working through Plan and a second schedule of points for clarification has been submitted. Anticipated report to Planning Authority late November <i>tbc</i>	Examiner's report scheduled for SDNPA Planning C'ttee meeting 17th January 2019. Referendum provisionally booked for 7th March 2019.		
7	Continuing programme of environmental enhancements and specific site improvements	Engage with appropriate projects arising from third-party initiatives (eg highway safety/traffic management). Continuing improvements to own assets (eg allotment sites)	earmarked contributions under consideration for pedestrian handrails. Highway verges contribution under consideration. Bus shelter adj Fitzroy House agreed.	New projects awaited		
8	Devolution of assets & services	Provide for transfer of ownership of various assets/services from Lewes District Council. (currently subject to ongoing negotiation)	Options appraisal understood to be underway by LDC re 2 Fisher Street and other sites.	Options appraisal understood to be underway by LDC re 2 Fisher Street and other sites		
9	New council website	New website to be researched – Council resolution FC2016/19.4 (16th June 2016) refers.	Site launched 25th Sept 2018. Technical "snagging" and content revisions continue.	Technical "snagging" and content revisions continue, as at 27th November 2018.		
10	General Data Protection Regulations	Legislation still in progress through Parliament, but anticipated that the General Data Protection Regulations will take effect May 2018. Implications for working practices and future Data Regulation structure.	Report delayed - anticipate costed options etc for report December 2018	Costed options etc for report December 2018. Anticipated Office system upgrade February/March 2019 (hardware and operating system, with new features for corporate IT compliance)		