

Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, St Ives Town Council, held in the Committee Room, The Guildhall, St Ives on Thursday 13 December 2018 at 6.00pm

PRESENT

Chairman – Councillor Glanville R
Vice-Chairman – Councillor Nicholls C

COUNCILLORS

Andrewes T	Messenger K	Tanner S
Garrod H	Mitchell A (from 6.11pm)	Tulley R
Henry R (from 6.37pm)	Symons J	Williams T
Kilmurry-Arthur K		

OFFICERS

Town Clerk Finance Officer

F&GP.136 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – were received from Councillors T Harris,

F&GP. 137 PUBLIC SPEAKING

None.

F&GP.138 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Chairman signs as a true and correct record the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 29 November 2018.

F&GP.139 CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

F&GP.140 DECLARATIONS OF COUNCILLOR AND OFFICER INTERESTS

None.

F&GP.141 TOWN CLERK’S UPDATE REPORT

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

F&GP.142 RESERVES (REVIEW OF RESERVES PRIOR TO BUDGET SETTING AND YEAR-END) RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

The committee considered the council’s General and Earmarked Reserves Funds. It was noted that there was a significant earmarked reserve for the library and there was debate on whether it should be reduced. Considerations included the need to allow for the £25,000 already allocated for the refurbishment works and that the library earmarked reserve funds included grants and funding from Cornwall Council which could not be transferred for other uses.

With regard to the library reserves, it was agreed that library dilapidation funds should be recorded separately (ie £2,000 per annum in this financial year and the previous). The principle was agreed that the VIC earmarked reserve at year end would be transferred to the general fund,

and that the library earmarked reserve at financial year end would be carried forward, with surplus from 2018/2019 from the library revenue budget to be transferred to the general fund.

RESOLVED – that the balances from the VIC and Library revenue budgets in 2018/2019 will be transferred to the general fund at financial year end (ie will not be transferred to the library and information service earmarked fund).

It was noted that an agenda item for the February 2019 meeting of this committee would be the review of earmarked reserves for financial year end.

F&GP.143 **TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET 2019/2020**

The Committee Chairman presented the draft council budget for the coming financial year, explaining that each committee had made recommendations on the cost centres falling within their respective responsibilities. Detailed consideration had taken place at the committee stage and so the committee was asked to now consider the council's budget as a whole, taking into account the predicted precept increase and the need for the council to satisfy itself that the level of precept, along with the planned expenditure, was justifiable.

Each committee's budget was considered.

Facilities Committee budget

There was no further provision made for step-free-access to the Guildhall at this stage as it was noted that the Facilities Committee had decided not to progress the project until grant funding had successfully been sought.

The weddings income budget was set at the same level as the current year, following a reduction in the income from bookings in the current year. It was noted that the charges for weddings and marketing in general were due to be reviewed.

Community & Environment Committee budget

The budget circulated was corrected, with the insertion of figures which had been omitted due to an administrative error in the preparation of the report to this committee.

The 'restoration of paintings' budget line was considered, with the recommendation to Council to be for budgeted expenditure of £500 and for the cleaning cost of Dual Form (the Barbara Hepworth sculpture outside the Guildhall) to be funded from Reserves, if the work was approved to be carried out.

Councillor Henry arrived at the meeting at this point.

RECOMMENDED – to Council that the 2019/2020 budget be approved and adopted, based on the draft budget circulated with the report to committee, subject to the amendments set out above.

F&GP.144 **PRECEPT SETTING – 2019/2020**

Having determined the budget for the coming year, Members considered the level of precept to be demanded, noting that the difference between income and expenditure in the draft budget

could be drawn in part or in full from the precept, with the potential for the balance to be drawn from Reserves.

RECOMMENDED – to Council that the precept for the 2019/2020 financial year be set at £568,230.

F&GP.145 **SCALE OF CHARGES 2019/2020**

In view of the need for sufficient time for Members' to fully consider the circulated proposals, it was

AGREED – to refer this item to an additional meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee to be scheduled to be held in January 2019.

Meeting closed at 6.54 pm

Chairman