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Minutes of the Meeting of St Ives Town Council held in the Council Chamber, The Guildhall, St Ives on Thursday 29 January 2015 at 7.00pm

PRESENT

Chairman – Councillor L Taylor (Town Mayor)

Vice-Chairman – Councillor T Williams (Deputy Town Mayor)

COUNCILLORS

Andrewes T

Glanville R

Mitchell A

Nicholls C

Tanner J

Tanner S

Tulley R

OFFICERS

Town Clerk

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – were received from Councillors M Armstrong, R Lait, J Symons and the Assistant Town Clerk.

148.PUBLIC SPEAKING

None.

149.DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

150.REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

None.

151.BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2015 / 2016

Members considered the Clerk's report circulated prior to the meeting, setting out the budget which had developed in consultation with each of the committees and had been recommended to Council by the Resources Committee.

The Mayor noted the process that had been followed, leading up to the extraordinary meeting of the Resources Committee on 21 January 2015.

The Chairman of the Resources Committee presented the proposed budget figures. He noted that it had been a challenging year and that with respect to devolution the process was ongoing, putting towns and parishes in a difficult situation when setting budgets. There had been careful consideration of all aspects of the budget, with reductions made where possible.

It was reported that a matter of concern was the provision of public conveniences – a valued facility that the town council had taken on in 2013 and now had to find funds to run following the cut of the grant from Cornwall Council. Plans for the coming year included improvements to their cleaning and some refurbishment works.

It was further reported that a contribution from Cornwall Council following an agreed increase in car park charges had been included in the budget for 2015 / 2016.

An amendment was made to bring the devolution budget to a total of £20,000, in line with the intention of the Resources Committee.

During discussion the following points were considered:

- The cost of public conveniences was suggested not to be appropriate to be solely funded by the town council and so over the coming year approaches should be made to St Ives BID, the Chamber of Trade, the St Ives Tourism Association and other relevant organisations / businesses.
- It was acknowledged that it was in the interests of the town to provide a high standard of facility to local residents and businesses, but that the precept should not fund all of a service which proved a benefit to businesses which drew significant amounts of revenue from the town over the course of the year.
- Councillors were mindful that there had been no provision for public realm CCTV in the budget, but that there might be a call for funds in the coming months.
- With regard to public conveniences, they were agreed to be an important service for the St Ives area but which had not yet reached the standards required, and so – in response to a suggestion raised by a Councillor - it was questioned whether it was advisable to reduce funding at this stage.
- The Facilities Committee had considered charging for the use of public toilets, also raising revenue from advertising, however these revenue streams would not be viable until the toilets had been brought up to standard.
- The funding from Cornwall Council from car parks income had not been earmarked for the public toilets, but had been negotiated with the service in mind, and so in this way the cut in the public toilets grant had been mitigated to some extent.
- Councillor Nicholls advised that he had been speaking to the St Ives BID team with regard to seeking a funding contribution towards the public toilets. He also reported that private businesses had already been contributing to the service (through financial contribution and through voluntarily carrying out winter cleaning)
- Sufficient budget provision needed to be made to enable the town council to continue to run existing services and to be in a position to take on the additional services being negotiated with Cornwall Council.
- It was noted that the precept raised across the parish needed to benefit the whole parish, with concerns raised that the funding for public conveniences gave greater benefit to the town of St Ives. In response to this, it was observed that businesses and people in Carbis Bay, Lelant and Halsetown also benefitted from the facilities when in St Ives, and from the increase in footfall and business through tourism and associated employment. In order to continue to make visitors feel welcome to visit St Ives, it was necessary to ensure that there was an adequate public convenience provision.
- There was a need to ensure that the town council was in the best position to carry out its existing functions and those planned for the future.

Following discussion, it was

**RESOLVED** - that

- (1) the Town Council budget for 2015 / 2016 be approved, as circulated with the report to this meeting;
- (2) the Precept of £287,348 for 2015 / 2016 be approved in accordance with the provisions in Sections 39, 41 and 50 of the Local Government Act 1992; and
- (3) the Town Clerk as Responsible Finance Officer be authorised to sign the Precept demand on Cornwall Council.

**152. EXPLANATORY NOTE WITH PRECEPT**

The town council was required to submit an explanatory note with the precept demand. A draft had been circulated prior to the meeting and was considered.

Two amendments were made to the wording: to reflect the agreed reduction in the budget for Devolution; and to clarify that the cut in grant for the public conveniences had been made by Cornwall Council.

**RESOLVED** – that the explanatory note with Precept, as amended at the meeting, be approved.

Meeting closed at 7.41 pm

Chairman