



FULL COUNCIL (FINANCE)

Town Hall
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New Ollerton
NEWARK
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Clerk: Karen Wakefield

The Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Full Council held on Wednesday 22nd January 2025 at 6pm

PRESENT: Cllrs P Beedle, R Fazil, J Munroe, M Pringle, L Shilling, R Shilling, M Staley
S Willis

Mrs K Wakefield – Clerk

Mr P Munday – Admin Assistant

APOLOGIES: Cllrs L Brazier, B Wells, G Lake, D Shelton, D Batey for personal reasons.

Resolved: that these apologies be accepted

In the absence of Cllr L Brazier, Vice-Chair Cllr Raja Fazil chaired the meeting

Declarations of members interests: None

Declaration of any intentions to record the meeting: None

FC/25/01 To approve the Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Wednesday 11th December 2024

The Minutes, having previously been circulated, were signed as a true and correct record.

FC/25/02 Finance & Audit:

1. To review Cemetery Fees for 2025/26

The Cemetery Fees, having been previously circulated were considered. The Clerk made a suggestion to amend and simplify the wording regarding monument fees. During discussion a suggestion was made to double all fees for non-residents to help contribute to the maintenance of the cemetery.

Following discussion it was:

Resolved: that the resident fees remain the same as previous year, all of the non resident prices are doubled, and The Clerk & Deputy Clerk amend the wording as suggested.

Proposed: Cllr M Pringle
Unanimously agreed

Seconded: Cllr L Shilling

2. To review Town Hall Room Hire charges & users for 2025/26

The Town Hall room hire charges, having been previously circulated, were considered.

During discussion it was noted that the majority of use was by community groups and the Town Council themselves. Any commercial users were charged an appropriate hire fee. The Clerk's recommendation was to leave the fees as they are as this would be of benefit to the local community.

Resolved: that the fees remain the same.

Proposed: Cllr R Shilling
Unanimously agreed

Seconded: Cllr L Shilling

It was agreed that room hire fees for a long standing community group would be discussed at the meeting to be held on 29th January when a letter would be presented.

3. To review Income & Expenditure to 31st December 2024 (*enclosed*)

Members confirmed that they had all received the Income & Expenditure report to 31st December 2024 and had the opportunity to study the details and make comment.

Following a brief discussion where the RFO was asked to clarify some details, it was:

Resolved that the figures be accepted.

Proposed: Cllr L Shilling
Unanimously agreed

Seconded: Cllr M Pringle

4. To receive a balance sheet up to 31st December 2024

The balance sheet, having been previously circulated was considered.

Following a brief discussion where the need for reserves was noted, it was:

Resolved: that the figures be accepted.

Proposed: Cllr L Shilling
Unanimously agreed

Seconded: Cllr M Pringle

5. To conduct a mid term review of earmarked reserves

Having previously circulated the document, the Clerk outlined details of the earmarked reserves and proposed amendments.

Following discussion it was:

Resolved: that the figures and recommendations made by The Clerk be accepted.

Proposed: Cllr M Pringle
Unanimously agreed

Seconded: Cllr R Shilling

2025/26 Budget Discussions.

- a. To receive and discuss the draft budget proposals for the 2025/26 financial year

The Clerk presented the previously circulated draft budget document for consideration. It was noted that the Town Council were not exempt from the forthcoming substantial increase in Employers NI Contributions which would have a huge effect on the budget and subsequent Precept requirements.

Members accepted that day to day running costs such as utility bills and tools and equipment had to be covered and complimented the Clerk on the amount of detailed information that had been supplied to members illustrating the true costs.

Attention was focussed on key areas such as the donations budget, floral displays, festive lights etc that could be cut to reduce the precept. Members agreed that the donations budget could be reduced as there had historically been a lack of funding requests. However the other items had received positive feedback and benefitted the whole community.

As savings needed to be made the cost of supplying the Public Toilets was discussed. There is no legislation committing a Town Council to provide this facility and repairs due to anti social behaviour and misuse had increased the need for both financial and physical support.

Whilst the toilets had been closed less than five enquiries had been received from the public. It was noted that there are other public toilet facilities available in the town and they would also be included in the new development.

Members therefore took the decision to keep the toilets closed to allow the unavoidable Council Tax increase to be kept to a minimum for all residents.

- b. To agree a recommendation of the 2025/26 Budget figures

It was highlighted that with this proposal, a reasonable increase of 20p per week, per household, (6.43%) could be achieved without the need to draw funds from depleted Reserves.

Following a full discussion, it was agreed that this was an accurate reflection of the proposed income and expenditure for 2025/2026, and it was:

Resolved: that the budget figures be accepted and approved.

Proposed: Cllr L Shilling
Unanimously agreed

Seconded: Cllr S Willis

- c. To agree a recommendation of the Precept requirements for 2025/26

Resolved: that the recommendation of these precept requirements be formally approved and recorded in these minutes to fulfil the Council's legal requirements.

Following that the Clerk as Responsible Financial Officer be instructed to serve a precept upon Newark & Sherwood District Council in the sum of £539,185

Proposed: Cllr R Shilling
Unanimously agreed

Seconded: Cllr M Pringle

Thanks were given to the Clerk, Deputy, Admin Assistant and Chair and Vice Chair of Finance & Audit for their work in the budget

FC/25/03 Date & Time of Next Full Council Meeting

Wednesday 29th January 2025 at 7pm