

CHICHESTER CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON TUESDAY 16 DECEMBER 2014 AT 5.30PM

- PRESENT : Councillors Bell, Campling, T Dignum, French, Plowman, Rankin and Scicluna
- EX OFFICIO : The Mayor (Councillor Hughes)
Deputy Mayor (Councillor Siggs)
Councillors Apel and Woolley
- IN ATTENDANCE : Town Clerk, Property Manager and Administration Manager

46 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 21 October 2014 having been circulated, were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

47 BUDGET 2015/2016

The Town Clerk advised that this meeting had been rescheduled from 25 November 2014 so that the budget could include the Council Tax Base figure which was determined by Chichester District Council at the beginning of December 2014.

An updated report of the Town Clerk and Finance Manager had been circulated with the Agenda which indicated a 1% increase in the Precept.

The Town Clerk said that the figure of £9,000 had been added to the salaries budget to allow for any changes in salaries due to the Staff Structure Review. However, the Committee were advised that both the Town Clerk and Councillor Siggs considered the report that the consultant had submitted lacked items of important detail. The Town Clerk had submitted comments to the Consultant but a response was still awaited.

Members considered the request from Chichester District Council to provide a further £3,000 towards the cost of CCTV in the City; it was noted that this figure had been included in the 2015/2016 budget.

The Town Clerk explained that £3,000 for the CCTV had been requested from the District Council in the 2014/2015 financial year and this had been duly honoured by the City Council as an one-off payment as had been advised by the District Council. However, it was now apparent that Chichester District Council wished for the funding of £3,000 to continue for the next financial year.

Members discussed this matter and although supportive of CCTV it was agreed that the figure of £3,000 be removed from the 2015/2016 budget and that the District Council examine case for consideration in 2016/2017 based on other examples of joint partnership working and funding such as Chichester Cemetery, Public Conveniences, Community Wardens where formal Memorandum of Understanding existed rather than casual funding request.

The Chairman proposed that the Mayors Allowance be increased from £3,500 to £4,000 and that the extra £500 be taken from the Mayors at Home Summer budget. The remainder of the 'Summer at Home' budget (£2,100), the 'Mayors at Home Christmas budget (£2,200) and the 'Receptions Other' budget (£1,000) be added together to give a combined figure of £5,300 for Mayoral Receptions. This was agreed by the Committee.

It was therefore RECOMMENDED to full Council that the City Council's Budget for 2015/2016 be increased by 3.19% a sum of £15,570 resulting in a Precept Demand of £503,680 and a Band D Council Tax Payment of £48.30. After taking the tax base (10,428.30) into account this is an increase of 0.46%.

48 DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT - PARISH POLLS

The Town Clerk explained that the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) had circulated a consultation document to Parishes on the Governments' Intentions to modernise Parish Poll Regulations and that feedback was required by the end of January 2015.

The Town Clerk read out the consultation questions and noted the member's comments which would be forwarded to the DCLG. Councillors were, among other things, supportive of just the one 'trigger' for a Poll being called, namely 10% of the electorate and not, as proposed an alternative of 60 electors where 10% exceeded 60 electors. A 'trigger' of 60 was seen as unrealistic in a City with over 21,000 electors. They also considered that the existing polling hours 4pm-9pm should remain bearing in mind the cost to the City Council of at least a dozen Polling Stations in the City.

49 TENDERS RECEIVED FOR EXTERNAL LIGHTING OF THE COUNCIL HOUSE

The Property Manager reported that tenders for the external lighting of the Council House had been received on Friday 12 December 2014 and all tenders submitted exceeded the budget of £35,000.

The Committee were advised that there were significant areas where costs could be saved on the project and the Property Manager recommended that a revised specification be drawn up and the three lowest tenderers be invited to re-tender for the work. The Committee supported this recommendation.

50 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 20 January 2015 (To be confirmed)

The meeting closed at 6.10pm.