

# ILMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Ilminster on Tuesday 10 January 2012 at 7.00 pm

## Present

**Chairman:** Cllr D Miller

**Councillors:** Cllr C Goodall, Cllr A Lawson, Cllr S Maylor, Cllr J Pallister, Cllr S Sainsbury, Cllr A Shearman, Cllr S Shepherd, Cllr J Sothern, Cllr R Swann, Cllr E J Taylor, Cllr L Vijeh (arrived at 7.30 pm)

**Officers:** Mrs J Thorne, Mrs M Shelley

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Whaites.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

None.

3. **Somerset County Council Youth and Community Service**

Cllr Miller suspended Standing Orders to allow County Cllr Kim Turner to update members on the proposed changes to funding from the County Council for Youth and Community Services. Cllr Turner explained that the favoured option from the County Council was to withdraw direct delivery of youth work and focus its funding on supporting voluntary and community organisations who could directly provide youth work. The County Council will make a decision on 31 January 2012 after discussion at the Scrutiny Committee meeting next week.

Members wanted more information about the Ile Youth Club and Cllr Sainsbury offered to find the information needed and inform the Council.

4. **Budget 2012/2013**

7.30 pm Cllr Vijeh arrived.

Cllr Miller pointed out that Renewals and Reserves had been underfunded in previous years and a point had been reached at which this practice could not be continued. Members accepted the Renewals and Reserves figures as presented.

Discussion on the Draft Budget paper focused on the issues of Grants, Open Spaces Purchases and Contingencies.

After some discussion it was agreed that the Grants budget should be set at £7000. It was agreed that a decision on allocating Grants would be discussed at a later date, and that any decision on grants to the Youth Club could not be made until precise figures were obtained from them.

It was agreed that £2000 needed to be set aside for Election Expenses as the public could ask for an election in the event of any Councillor vacancy.

It was agreed that it would be prudent to set aside a contingency of 5% of the overall budget.

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It was agreed that £80000 remain set aside for the MUGA and Skatepark. However it was noted this would leave a shortfall in Reserves which would need to be put back incrementally in future years.

The Clerk informed members that the information she received from SALC was that there would be no capping of the Precept for Parish or Town Councils for this year but that it could be a possibility for future years although it had been pointed out that it was more likely to affect the larger town councils such as Weston Super Mare.

Councillors looked at the draft priority list. It was agreed that the Mayor and Chairs of committees should meet to decide priorities, timescales and items that should be included in the Budget for 2012/13 to be agreed at the Council Meeting on 17 January 2012.

On a proposal by Cllr Lawson, seconded by Cllr Maylor it was unanimously

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND that the Precept be set at £205873.

The meeting closed at 09.20 pm

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Signed

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Date