

**WESTBURY TOWN COUNCIL**

**AT THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD AT THE LAVERTON,  
BRATTON ROAD, WESTBURY ON MONDAY, 14<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2013 AT 6.00 PM.**

**PRESENT:** Cllr D Bradshaw (Chairman)  
Cllrs S Andrews, Mrs S Ezra, D Jenkins, Mrs C Mitchell, F Morland and  
P Wakeman.  
Mr K Harvey, Town Clerk, and Mrs B Mantle.

**Members of the public:** Nil.

**F.100 PUBLIC FORM** Nil.

**F.101 ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE.**  
Cllr D Windess – Business commitment.

**F.102 DISPENSATIONS.** Nil.

**F.103 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** Nil.

**F.104 MINUTES.** The Minutes of the Finance Committee held on the 7<sup>th</sup> October 2013 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

**F.105 MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES.** Nil.

**F.106 CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS FOR REPORT.** Nil.

**F.107 WESTBURY TOWN COUNCIL – DRAFT GRANTS POLICY.** It was resolved to make no amendments and to recommend to Town Council that the Grants Policy as presented be approved.

**F.108 ANNUAL TOWN CLOCK SERVICE – SMITH of DERBY.** It was resolved that the Town Council will enter into a six year service agreement with Smith of Derby Ltd to take advantage of a 15% discount for payment in advance.

**F.109 TOWN COUNCIL WEBSITE – FINANCIAL DATA.** It was resolved that the following public financial documents may be published on the Town Council's website:

Annual budget  
Audit Reports – internal and external  
Statement of Accounts  
Monthly expenditure over £500  
Grants made  
Councillor allowances and expenses

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F.110

**COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT – IMPACT ON TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS.** It was resolved to recommend to Town Council the following response to Wiltshire Council's consultation on Council Tax Support:

**Council Tax Support (formally Council Tax Benefit)**

**Impact on Town and Parish Councils**

**Consultation Questionnaire**

- A. What level of grant does your Parish Council think would be reasonable given the shortfall of funding being provided by the Coalition?

Options	Comment
a. Nil;	<b>No</b>
b. Reduce by Settlement Funding Assessment reduction	<b>No</b>
c. Other	<b>£49,225 as for 2013/2014</b>

- B. Should all councils be supported to the same extent, or should the grant be concentrated on those Councils where the impact is greatest?
- YES/NO **n/a**
- Comment **Grant should be paid strictly pro-rata to the grant in 2013/2014.**
- C. Does your Council support Town and Parish Councils being independent and not relying on a grant, if so over how many years would you wish to see this achieved?
- YES/NO **n/a**
- Comment **The Council does not believe there is any loss of independence if in receipt of a grant.**
- D. If you received no grant or a reduced grant would you favour a large increase in precept in 2014-15 to compensate for this or would you look to spread this over the next four years?
- YES/NO **n/a**
- Comment **The Council is not in favour of a large increase in Precept for 2014/2015.**
- E. If the Coalition were to introduce a precept cap does your Council have sufficient reserves to compensate for a reduction in grant?
- YES/NO **No**
- Comment

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F. Have you plans to reduce your budget over the next four years?

YES/NO      **No**

Comment      **The Council has no plans in place at the present time.**

G. Are there any other issues you think we should consider?

**No further issues**

**F.111      REPORT BY THE TOWN CLERK & RFO. Nil.**

**F.112      MONTHLY INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT – AUGUST.**  
Noted.

**Signed on behalf of the meeting  
this ninth day of December 2013**

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**Chairman**

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