

WESTBURY TOWN COUNCIL

AT THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD AT THE LAVERTON, BRATTON ROAD, WESTBURY, ON TUESDAY, 9th DECEMBER 2014 AT 7.00 PM.

PRESENT: Cllr Mrs S Ezra (Chairman)
Cllrs S Andrews, D Bradshaw, I Cunningham, G King and
Mrs C Mitchell.
Mr K Harvey, Town Clerk, and Mrs B Mantle

Also in attendance: Cllrs R Hawker, M Sutton and WD Tout
Mr D Kemp, DCK Beavers Ltd

F.153 PUBLIC FORM.

Cllr W D Tout:

- Thanked Mr Derek Kemp and the Town Council officers for their work on the preparation of the Budget 2015-16.
- Request to delete the word “Dog” from the proposed budget item “Dog/Town Warden”.
- Questioned the amount budgeted for the Dog/Town Warden compared to that proposed by Warminster Town Council.
- Proposed budget item “Devolution of Services” – considered this to be too little.
- Budget item – Civic Mayoral Robes.

F.154 ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE:

Cllr D Jenkins	-	Personal
Cllr P Wakeman	-	Business

F.155 DISPENSATIONS. Nil

F.156 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. The following non-pecuniary interests were declared, regarding Agenda Item 9. Small Grants 2013-2014:

Welfare of the Elderly	-	Cllrs I Cunningham, Mrs S Ezra, G King and Mrs C Mitchell
Westbury & Dist French Twinning	-	Cllr G King
Leigh Park Community Centre	-	Cllr S Andrews
White Horse Day Centre	-	Cllrs Mrs S Ezra and Mrs C Mitchell
Westbury Mid Week Skittles	-	Mr K Harvey
Westbury & District Link Scheme	-	Cllr G King
Westbury United Football Club	-	Mr K Harvey
Westbury Amateur Swimming Club	-	Cllr D Bradshaw
68 Sqn Westbury ATC	-	Cllr S Andrews
Westbury Music & Arts Festival	-	Cllr I Cunningham
2 nd Westbury Brownies	-	Cllr I Cunningham

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F.157 **MINUTES.** The Minutes of the Finance Committee held on the 9th June 2014 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

F.158 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES.** The Clerk confirmed all actions have been completed.

Members Matters Arising. Nil.

F.159 **CHAIRMAN’S MATTERS FOR REPORT.** Nil.

F.160 **DRAFT BUDGET 2015-2016.** Mr Kemp presented the budget for 2015-16. Based on inflationary increases; recommended increases in salary scales by NALC and NJC; and Policy & Resources Committee recommendations, the net expenditure increased by £74,000, but included in this is setting aside the precept support grant on to the devolved services reserve as last year. The additional £23,357 grant income, which is included also in the Admin expenditure is being set aside to a reserve. The total net expenditure actually increases by £50,730, taking out the effect of the grant not budgeted before last year.

As recommended by the Policy & Resources Committee, the following additional items already included in the Draft Budget, were confirmed:-

Section 137 grant - The Sports Roadshow (Active Trowbridge)	£1,000
Westbury Tourism Promotion (including £750 annual town Partnership)	£2,750
Town Warden	£22,000
Events Co-ordinator (10 hours per week)	£5,400

It was further agreed to recommend an increase in the Capital Projects budget from £40,000 to £60,000.

It was RESOLVED that the Draft Budget 2015/16 as submitted, excluding the council tax support grant from Wiltshire Council of £23,357, and as amended to include the increase in the Capital Projects budget from £40,000 to £60,000, be recommended to Town Council for approval at its meeting on 5th January 2015.

F.161 **BANKING ARRANGEMENTS AND AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS.**

Following the repeal of Section 150(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 – Implementation (England), the option to abandon the two signature rule was considered. It was agreed further consideration should be given to what effective systems and arrangements need to be put in place for banking and authorisation of payments should it be resolved to recommend such action to Town Council.

To this end, it was resolved to arrange an additional Finance Committee meeting in January to consider this matter in more detail.

- F.162** **SMALL GRANTS 2014-2015.** It was RESOLVED to recommend to Town Council that the small grant applications for 2014/15, as submitted, be approved.
- F.163** **REPORT BY THE TOWN CLERK & RFO.** Nil.
- F.164** **MONTHLY INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT – November 2014.** Noted.

8.38 pm