

**CITY OF ELY COUNCIL
PERSONNEL, FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT 7.40 PM ON THE 22ND JANUARY 2018**

PRESENT: Mrs T Coulson – Clerk to the Council

The Mayor, Cllr R Hobbs

Cllr J Yates

Cllr E Every

Cllr M Rouse

Cllr S Friend-Smith

Cllr S Austen

Cllr I Lindsay

Cllr A Arnold

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs Pearson and Phillips.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST PERSONNEL, FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING (HELD ON THE 6TH NOVEMBER 2017) & MATTERS ARISING

Minutes of the last Personnel, Finance and Governance Committee meeting held on the 6th November 2017, were agreed and signed as a true record. Page PFG 47 refers. There were no matters arising.

4. BUDGET UPDATE AND SETTING OF BUDGET FOR 2018/2019

Members noted the budget update, dated the 23rd January 2018. The Clerk gave detailed explanations of the second draft of the budget. Since this had been circulated the Clerk had been informed that some of the headings that had been provided by ECDC, for the tourism services were not correct, so these were adjusted during the meeting. This resulted in a proposed precept of £498,431. This would result in an increase of 17.71p per week on a Council Tax Band D property in Ely, which was an increase of 14.52%. Members felt this increase could be justified due to the following:-

- Maintaining the current quality of our services.
- An anticipated 2% salary increase across the staffing structure and increased on-costs.
- Modest target income revenue.
- Increased grant to the Museum as ECDC will no longer be contributing to the joint grant funding provided over the last 5 years. The Council will take complete responsibility for this.
- Additional minor highways projects (using some current CIL monies and shortfall from budget).
- Increased services identified and agreed because of other local authority budget cuts and the taking over of the Tourist Information Service and City Centre within Ely.
- A general contingency of £4,500 for the year (less than 1% of precept).
- Ring-fenced reserves.
- An appropriate level of general reserves

Cllr Friend-Smith proposed a precept of £498,431 for 2018/2019 be recommended to the next Full Council meeting for approval. This was seconded by the Mayor and unanimously agreed.

The Mayor proposed that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, regarding agenda item 5, that this be considered in private and that the power of exclusion of the public under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 be exercised. This was seconded by Cllr Rouse and agreed to go into Committee at the end of the meeting.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Due to the confidential nature of the item raised by the Mayor, it will be discussed in Committee at the end of the meeting.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Monday 23rd April 2018 at 7.00 pm.

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COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
23rd April 2018

CONFIDENTIAL

ITEMS TAKEN IN COMMITTEE – FOR COUNCILLORS ONLY

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Mayor informed councillors he had a meeting with a senior officer at ECDC today and had been advised that the process the Council is using to sublet the Maltings Cottage is unsafe and would lay the Council open to a legal challenge. With this knowledge, he felt he had to inform members of this and whilst ECDC's response is advisory and could not be voted on at this meeting it was agreed that the process should cease. He will write to both candidates to tell them that the process of subletting the Maltings Cottage will cease, explaining why. When a new process has been put in place, after further advice from the Council's landlords for the Maltings Cottage, the Council will advertise for a tenant, for which the current applicants can apply.

Members present unanimously agreed this was the correct process to follow and fully supported the Mayor.

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COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
23rd April 2018