

BARTON-UPON-HUMBER TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING
held at Assembly Rooms Queen Street, Barton
MONDAY 7th November 2022 at 6.00pm

Councillor P Vickers (Chairman)

Councillors Mrs S Evison, Mrs C Patterson, B Troop and K Vickers.

Also in attendance Cllr N Jacques and Ms T Davis (Town Clerk)

Mayor attended the funeral of Mrs Jean Mason today along with two other council members.

238. **Apologies for Absence**

Cllr N Pinchbeck (Personal)

239. **Declarations of Interest**

None.

240. **Minutes of Meeting held on 17th October 2022 approved and confirmed as a correct record at a meeting of the Town Council held on 2nd November 2022**

It was noted that these minutes had been signed as a correct record, for action as necessary, at an ordinary meeting of the town council held on 2nd November 2022

241. **To consider Financial Items – Budget for 2023/24 and agreement on amount of precept to set for 2023/24.**

Mayor introduced the agenda item and explained that it would benefit the community if the precept remained frozen at a 0% increase.

There was discussion on what should be the correct level of reserves and whether a 0% increase will leave a comfortable amount in reserves. Members questioned whether this was the right year to increase the precept and also that the town is not comparable with other neighbouring parishes.

Cllr P Vickers read out his proposal.

- A) this council resolves to freeze the band D precept at £44.09 (i.e 0% increase in precept paid for all bands) providing a total precept of £166,750 (2023-2024).
- B) This council prioritises spending on community events such as Picnic in the Park, Christmas Festival and the Christmas lights. In addition a continued commitment of £25,000 in a community grant pot and £13,629 for community planting and other environment projects.
- C) This council commits to a detailed improvement delivery plan for the Assembly Rooms funded through external and a proportion of Barton upon Humber Town Council funding.
- D) Finance and General Purposes committee to establish all other budget allocations.

Cllr N Jacques asked if there was going to be any consideration for the Warm Spaces Initiative and would this be taken from Reserves? He went on to ask if the council will be financially supporting the Food Bank if it requests more support and there should be funding made available for a Handy Person which has not been calculated in the current proposed budget.

Town Clerks Options to members for consideration in the table below.

Options for F&GP 7th November 2022

Budget	Band D	% Increase	General Reserves	Ear Marked Reserves
199792	52.83	19.8	140000	60000
174792	46.22	4.8	115000	60000
166750	44.09	0	106958	60000

Cllr B Troop proposed Option 2 tabled which is a 4.8% increase and an increase of £2.13 on a Band D Property.

Clerk advised the Committee that it is not good practice to continually have a 0% increase on a precept that has very little income to support the expenditure that the council incurs on all of the services to the community. This advice has been gained from lots of Finance Training tailored for the third tier council sector. Clerk went on to advise that due to the lower General Reserves this coming year that next year the council will have to consider an increase and she also is concerned about the low levels left. Clerk felt it to be financially important that the £60K Ear Marked Reserve for the Assembly Rooms should remain.

Cllr P Vickers thanked the Clerk and the Staff for the work on the current budget.

Cllr K Vickers felt that current projects could be run in different ways and saving can be made that way.

A recorded vote was requested.

AGREED

Proposed Cllr P Vickers, Seconded Cllr K Vickers

Budget for 2023/24 was agreed at a 0% increase. This amount being £166,750 precept request to North Lincolnshire Council. This equates to £44.09 for a Band D property and the use of up to £33,000 of Council General Reserves.

**Cllrs P Vickers, K Vickers, C Patterson and S Evison For
Cllr B Troop Against**

The Chairman, Councillor P Vickers closed the meeting at 18.14

.....Chairman

7th November 2022