

FULL COUNCIL

Minutes of a **Meeting of Stirchley and Brookside Parish Council** held on :-
Tuesday 17th January 2017 at the **Sambrook Centre** at **6:00pm**

Present: Councillors: Mrs J Loveridge (Chair), M Randle (Vice-Chair), T Bate, R Breeze, ARH England, R Fagan, Mrs L Hogger, J Loveridge, S Parr, C Turley, and A Watkin

Also Present: Mrs G Bailey (Parish Clerk/RFO), Mrs S Middleton (Deputy Clerk/Community & Facilities Manager) and Mr C Corbett (Committee & Finance Secretary – taking the minutes)

Public Open Session

There were no members of the general public present.

FC/16/80 APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs J Turley (un-well) and was accepted by the Council.

FC/16/81 MINUTES

Resolved – that the minutes of the last meeting of the Council held on 22nd November 2016 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

FC/16/82 MATTERS ARISING

To receive reports on action taken arising from the last meeting.

FC/16/83 PARISH CLERK'S REPORT

The Council received the Parish Clerk's Report that stated that the Stirchley Community Library had now become the responsibility of the Parish Council as from 12th December 2017. Regular volunteers had been recruited.

The Clerk reported upon the successful handover of the Brookside Central building to the Parish Council, albeit with some last minute issues to resolve. The post of part time receptionist had also been recently advertised.

Furthermore, the refurbishment works planned for the Sambrook Centre had come to the tender stage for the roofing and general building works.

It was proposed by Cllr J Loveridge and seconded by Cllr M Randle and subsequently **RESOLVED - that a new banner, promoting the new Community Library's presence in the Sambrook Centre, be ordered at a cost of £100.**

FC/16/84 MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS

The monthly receipts and payments report and the monthly investment report, together with the monthly payroll report were presented to the Council for approval

It was proposed by Cllr S Parr and seconded by Cllr R Breeze and subsequently unanimously **RESOLVED that the Monthly Financial Reports, as presented to the Council, be approved.**

FC/16/85 TELFORD & WREKIN BUDGET POSITION

The Council received details of a presentation of the Telford & Wrekin Council's Budget Plan. There were two options for consideration and Members were urged to visit the T&W web site and to respond to the consultation.

Members noted the content of the information in the tabled presentation.

FC/16/86 **BUDGET 2017/18**

The Council considered the budget report as presented by the Parish Clerk. The report highlighted certain matters relating to the budget, including revised staffing costs, the neighbourhood plan, insurance costs, youth services, current sources of income and Council reserves.

Members made particular comment upon the partnership funding available from T&W Council for Youth Services. Furthermore, Members were informed of recent bookings at the Centre from Slimming World and Scout groups that would generate additional income for the Council.

The provision of a Neighbourhood Plan was contained within the budget proposals but the cost of producing such a strategic document may be prohibitive and not cost effective as specialist staffing input may be required. Cllr Parr suggested an approach to "BIG" be made for funding and Cllr England supported such an approach.

It was proposed by Cllr J Loveridge and seconded by Cllr A England and subsequently unanimously **RESOLVED that the budget for 2017/18 be set at the level of £338,286 and be approved.**

FC/16/87 **PRECEPT 2017/18**

The Council was requested to consider a report and approve a precept for the year 2017/18. The Parish Clerk explained that the amount of council tax support grant has decreased from £40,000 to £31,660, approximately 21%, much of the effect of this has been mitigated by an increase in the tax base to 2,262.20. It was likely that the council tax grant would continue to decrease. Stirchley and Brookside Parish Council continued, through long term prudent financial management to hold reserves in excess of the required minimum.

The Parish Council would need to consider how to balance reduced income from central funding, whilst taking on more services without imposing excessive council tax increases. It was considered that by earmarking £50,000 from reserves over the next five years the effect of the reduction in the tax base and loss of CTS grant could be absorbed whilst keeping the % increase in council tax below 2%.

The figures were compiled with a reduction in CTS grant of 30% per annum and no increase in the tax base. In order to achieve a break even situation budget to precept, the Council would need to achieve increased income / savings of £23,000 per annum.

Members acknowledged the prudent financial management exercised by the Clerk

It was proposed by Cllr J Loveridge and seconded by Cllr R Breeze and subsequently agreed unanimously **RESOLVED that the precept for the year 2017/18 be set at £256,626 and also to earmark reserves of a further £50,000 over five years to protect against an increase in Council Tax required by the parish.**

FC/16/88 **MINUTES OF COMMITTEES**

The Council received, for information, the minutes of the Community and Environment Committee held on 01/11/16 and 06/12/16, and the Policy & Resources Committee held on 29/11/16.

FC/16/89 **Correspondence**

The Clerk reported that she had received communications to explain initial building works at the Centre to include removing the outside steps to leave ramped access from Churchway.

FC/16/90 **Councillor Reports**

Members around the table reported accordingly:-

- a) - J Loveridge – potholes at Burford, Bembridge, Beaconsfield and Briarwood.
- b) - S Parr – reported an issue of motorbikes being ridden in the Briarwood area of Brookside along pedestrian footpaths and presenting a danger to other footpath users. He said part of the problem was that there appeared nowhere for the motorbike users to ride in the locality free from pedestrians etc. It was agreed to seek a meeting with the T&W community safety officer Paul Fenn to discuss the issue and possible remedies. The matter could also be included in discussions at the next “working lunch” held soon.

FC/16/91 **Exclusion of the Press & Public**

It was moved by Cllr S Parr and seconded by Cllr J Loveridge, and subsequently unanimously **RESOLVED - that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it may involve the likely disclosure of exempt information in relation to any individual, as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.**

FC/16/92 **Personnel Sub Committee**

Members received the minutes of the Personnel Sub Committee held on 6th December 2016, and to considered the recommendations contained therein

It was proposed by Cllr J Loveridge and seconded by Cllr R Breeze and subsequently unanimously **RESOLVED - that the minutes of the Personnel Sub Committee held on 6th December 2016, and the recommendations contained therein, be approved .**

Meeting finished at 7.16 p.m.