

**OSWESTRY TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a meeting of Oswestry Town Council held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2013 at 7.05 pm in the Council Chamber, The Guildhall, Oswestry.**

**PRESENT:**           The Mayor, Councillor M. Bennett.  
                          Councillors Mrs. M. Benyon, W. Benyon,  
                          Mrs. A.H. Bickerton, Mrs. M.E. Chamberlain,  
                          Mrs. E. Channon, P.A. Cherrington, S. Haworth,  
                          R. Hoseason, W.O. Jones, D.P. Milner, S. Rainey and  
                          C. Schofield.

**In the Chair:**       Councillor M. Bennett

**In attendance:**    David J. Preston – Town Clerk  
                          Roger A Dyke – Finance Officer

**1.    PUBLIC SESSION**

**RESOLVED** to note that there were two members of the public in attendance, however no questions were asked.

**2.    APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillor Miss B.Y. Gull – recuperating after an operation  
Councillor Mrs. C. Hawksley – illness  
Councillor Mrs. V. Schofield – family matters

Absent: Councillor V. Hunt

**RESOLVED** the apologies be accepted.

**3.    THE CODE OF CONDUCT AND DISCLOSARY PRECUNIARY INTERESTS – DISPENSATION**

The Town Clerk had discussed the issue of dispensation over setting of the council tax and precept with the Solicitor of Shropshire Council. As a result an email had been received setting out the process and suggesting that the Chairman of the Parish or Town Council makes the request, on behalf of all Members of the Council, for the dispensation. The Parish or Town Council then considers granting the dispensation on the grounds that so many Members would otherwise be precluded from taking part that it would not be quorate.

On behalf of the Council, the Mayor, Councillor Martin Bennett, had formally made the request for the dispensation and the Council was asked to consider and confirm this dispensation be put in place.

**RESOLVED** to grant a dispensation to allow both the Finance & General Purposes Committee and full Council to discuss and set the 2013/14 Budget.

**4. ADJOURNEMENT OF MEETING**

**RESOLVED** the meeting of full Council be adjourned to allow the Finance & General Purposes Committee to consider and set the 2013/14 Budget and Precept and transact business as outlined on the agenda in open session for the evening.

The meeting adjourned at 7.10 pm and reconvened at 8.00 pm.

**5. ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE AND INCOME 2013/14**

The Council was asked to formally confirm the Estimates of Expenditure and Income 2013/14 and the Forward Budget 2012/13 to 2016/17 as detailed in the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held earlier on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2013.

**RESOLVED:**

- To adopt the Estimates of Expenditure and Income 2013/14 as presented;
- To confirm a 3% increase in Band D acknowledging changes imposed by Government to the local council tax base. This to be an increase on Band D from £65.86 to £67.83. Precept £321,000.

Based upon a settlement grant of £51,656 by Shropshire Council, in real terms the increase to be 1.76% creating extra income of £6,450 in favour of the Council;

- To support the review of earmarked reserves looking to merge risks in terms of maintenance and income for future years. The matter to be reviewed by the Audit Panel;
- To review with the Chairman's Group the delivery of future budgets in terms of meetings, presentation and consultation, inviting input from all Members;
- To confirm the Chairman's Group recommendation and a grant of £7,000 be awarded to Oswestry Cricket Club towards their proposed extension;
- To note the Forward Budget 2012/13 to 2016/17 acknowledging the

effect on the budget and reserves in future years should the council tax grant reduce or cease.

**6. OSWESTRY GATACRE ALLOTMENTS & GARDENS ASSOCIATION**

Request from the Association for funding from the Large Grant Scheme.

The request was towards provision of public conveniences at the Allotments.

**RESOLVED** a grant of £2,500 be awarded.

**7. OSWESTRY YOUTH CAFÉ**

Request from Oswestry Youth Café for consideration of a further grant. The Council was reminded that it ring-fenced a further £1,500 for potential funding towards Oswestry Youth Café in the current financial year.

**RESOLVED** to grant the ring-fenced amount of £1,275 + VAT towards fire alarm installation.

**8. WALFORD DAVIES – SCULPTURE RELIEF ‘PLAQUE’**

An application was anticipated to be received from Mr Chris Symons looking to the installation of a bronze commemorative sculpture relief ‘plaque’ in respect of Walford Davies at Christchurch.

**RESOLVED** to note the application had not been forthcoming therefore the agenda item was withdrawn.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8.10 pm.

**Councillor M. Bennett**  
**The Mayor**