

**MINUTES of a MEETING
of the
BUCKLEY TOWN COUNCIL
held in the
Council Chamber, BUCKLEY
on a hybrid basis
on
Tuesday 31st January 2023 at 7pm**

PRESENT

Councillor J S Jones (Town Mayor) – in the Chair

Cllr C Cordery	Cllr H D Hutchinson	Cllr E L Preece
Cllr C A Ellis	Cllr R B Jones	Cllr L Rathbone
Cllr D Ellis	Cllr D Mackie	Cllr D Rose
Cllr L G Fox	Cllr M J Peers	Cllr R L Stewart
Cllr I D Howes *	Cllr I Peters	Cllr A Woolley
Cllr E J Hutchinson	Cllr C M Preece	

*joined remotely

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr S Jones – Locum Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer
Mrs L George – Personal Assistant
Mrs T J Reece – Personal Assistant

18658- APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence and reasons were received and approved from Councillors V E Blondek (illness) and A Drury (prior engagement).

Councillor H D Hutchinson moved to send a card wishing a speedy recovery to Councillor V E Blondek.

18659- DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of Interest were made in relation to this Agenda. It was –

Resolved – that no Declarations of Interest were noted.

18660- BUCKLEY TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2023/24

The Locum Town Clerk advised Members that the draft Budget for 2023/24 is a live document and therefore some updates have been made right up to the start of this

evening's meeting. Paper copies were distributed and also the excel file was being projected on a screen so any further changes can be made as each line was looked at. A smooth walk through with explanations provided to finish up with an overall figure of expenditure of £415,378 (down 3.57% year on year) broken down to Highways & Leisure Committee £71,850 down 14.1% from 2022/23, General Purposes Committee £76,978 down 7.3% from 2022/23 and Finance & Economic Development Committee £266,550 up 0.2% from 2022/23. Taking into account projected income and VAT refund of £33,343 leaves £382,035 as the funding gap to be met by the precept and potential drawing on financial reserves. Members agreed to draw on £45,709 from general reserves and request £336,326 as precept from the residents of Buckley – for a Band D property this is £49.86 annually, up 3.19%. This was considered to be the right balance to strike to cushion residents and use reserves this way.

Headline projects being supported are :-

Looking Out for our Young People.

Play area improvements – matched by Aura Leisure & Libraries.

Summer Holiday Play Scheme in four locations in Buckley. See our website for 2022 reports.

Annual Events – Very much loved and Supported.

Buckley Coronation Fun Day – Sunday 7th May 2023 – Higher Common, Buckley

Bonfire and Firework Event – Higher Common, Buckley

Christmas Lights throughout the Town Centre to support trade includes the Switch On event with Santa in attendance.

Well being for our residents.

To support the work of a Mental Health Counsellor.

Financial Support for local community groups – on application.

Education Bursary Scheme – on application.

Business and Police Support.

Contribution to Flintshire County Council to allow for 1 hour free parking year round at the short stay car park opposite the Spar and free parking in December across all car parks to encourage trade in the town.

CCTV – Mobile Camera Units x 2 – towards Crime Prevention.

Resolved – that all Members voted to approve the budget tabled with live updates this evening for 2023/24 and request a precept of £336,326.

18661- REVIEW OF ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND INVESTMENT STRATEGY

Members were advised that credit balance interest rates have recently been rising as the Bank of England base rate moved up, now 4%. Ahead of a formal review and adoption of the Annual Treasury Management Strategy for 2023/24 the Locum Clerk

alerted Members to the offer from Cambridge and Counties Bank of a 12 month Fixed Rate deposit paying 3.3%.

Resolved – that Members agreed to give 32 days notice to withdraw £150,000 to deposit with Cambridge and Counties Bank.

CHAIR