

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE
HELD AT THE OLD MINING COLLEGE CENTRE, QUEEN STREET, CHASETOWN
ON THURSDAY 12 JANUARY 2017 COMMENCING AT 7.00 P.M.**

PRESENT

Councillor Pullen (in the Chair)

Councillors Mrs Banevicius, Mrs Fisher, Stokes, Mrs Tranter (from 7.17 p.m.) and Mrs Woodward

In attendance

Mrs M Danby, Chief Executive Officer

Councillor Mrs Evans

One member of the public

53. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received.

54. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

None declared.

55. MINUTES

RESOLVED That the Minutes of a Meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee held on 16 November 2016 (Minute Nos 36 - 52) be approved as a correct record.

56. ESTABLISHMENT OF A BURNTWOOD TOWN STRATEGY (BTS) TASK & FINISH GROUP

Members were requested to consider establishing a BTS Task & Finish Group to work with the CEO in identifying projects which enhance and/or promote Burntwood within the criteria set out in the BTS.

It was proposed that one of the Group's first tasks would be to look at BTC's website.

RESOLVED THAT:

- a) The CEO revisit the BTS with a view to condensing it to a smaller document reflecting those areas which the Town Council can move forward, i.e. excluding areas which were directly responsibility of the District and/or County Councils.
- b) The two Group Leaders nominate Members to form a Task & Finish Group comprised of three Majority Group Members, two Minority Group Members) and the CEO to look at BTC's website with a view to suggesting changes which could see the website more community focussed yet retaining the necessary Town Council information.

57. DEBT BENEFIT AND CONSUMER ADVICE

Members were requested to consider a request from Staffordshire County Council that the Town Council consider funding to enable the Citizens Advice Bureau to continue to provide Debt Benefit and Consumer Advice in the county following the County Council's decision to cut/cease financial support from 01 April 2017.

Members discussed the request at some length, noting that the Town Council already makes a significant annual contribution to CASES. Members were anxious to see debt benefit and consumer advice offered to Burntwood residents and it was suggested that there may be merit in meeting with CASES to ascertain whether they could offer such a service from the Old Mining College Centre on one day a week.

RESOLVED THAT:

- a) The County Council be advised that the Town Council declines to contribute the requested additional funding.
- b) A meeting be arranged with representatives from the Town Council and CASES to explore the above suggestion.

58. CHARITIES, COUNCILS AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES (CCLA)

Members were advised of the current costs and interest payable on the accounts held with Barclays Bank and they were requested to consider recommending to the Full Council that it move some or all of those funds to accounts with the CCLA.

RECOMMENDED THAT:

- a) The Town Council close its Barclays Business Current Account and move those funds to the CCLA's Public Sector Deposit Account.
- b) The Town Council move 50% of the funds, i.e. £82,225, held in Barclays Business Deposit Account to the CCLA's Local Authorities Property Fund.
- c) The remaining 50% of funds noted in (b) above to remain in the Barclays Business Deposit Account
- d) The Town Council's day-to-day financial needs remain with Unity Trust Bank.

59. REVIEW OF THE CIVIC ROLE

Members were advised that the Civic role was recently reviewed and the Committee is requested to consider the recommended amendments to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman Advice, Conventions and Procedure document.

RESOLVED That the amended Chairman and Vice-Chairman Advice, Conventions and Procedure document be approved and implemented (**Appendix A**).

60. DRAFT 2017/18 BUDGET AND PRECEPT

Members were requested to consider the draft 2017/18 budget which included a proposed precept of £308,800. Members were advised that the proposed precept was equivalent to a 0% increase on Council Tax Band D.

RECOMMENDED THAT:

- a) The draft 2017/18 be approved by the Full Council at its meeting on 26 January 2017.
- b) The Town Council declare a precept on Lichfield District Council in the sum of £308,800.
- c) The Town Council task the Events Committee with organising additional annual switch-on events for the Christmas Trees at Bells Lane, Boney Hay and High Street, Chasetown.

(The Meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.)

Signed

Date