

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
HELD AT BURNTWOOD LIBRARY, SANKEYS CORNER
ON THURSDAY 13 DECEMBER 2012 COMMENCING AT 7.44 P.M.**

PRESENT

Councillor Campbell (in the Chair)
Councillors Mrs Brettell, Isaacs, Mrs Evans, James, Mrs Rigby and Taylor)

In attendance

Mrs M Danby, Town Clerk
One member of the public

15. APOLOGIES

None, all Members present.

16. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None declared.

17. MINUTES

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 18 October 2012 (Minute Nos. 9 – 14) be received and approved as a correct record.

18. 2013/14 DRAFT BUDGET (INCLUDING 2012/13 BUDGET (INCLUDING CEMETERY) (ACTUAL TO 30 NOVEMBER 2012)

The Town Clerk explained how she had approached the draft 2013/14 Budget and answered Members queries.

The Town Clerk also explained that it was not currently possible to consider the level of Precept to be recommended for 2013/14 as the Council Tax Base had yet to be advised by the District Council.

The District Council had advised that they would not know their Finance Settlement figure for the coming year until 19 December. This is further complicated by the recent publication of The Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012 which came into force on 26 November, followed by The Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012 which came into force on 30 November.

What are the factors that need to be applied in calculating the parish/town council precept?

In the past the government has always provided 100% to support the amount District Council has to pay in Council Tax Benefit. However, for the next financial year, when the system changes to Council Tax Support, this will be 10% less than in previous years. This reduction will be partly offset by the changes to Council Tax Discounts (e.g. on second homes where the reduction has been removed) but most towns and parishes will find there is a shortfall in their funding overall.

The funding provided by the Government for Council Tax Support next year will be 10% less than the District Council currently receives so town and parish councils should expect there to be a shortfall. The new arrangements also mean that the provision of Council Tax Support will affect the Council Tax Base of the precepting authorities including town and parish councils. This will partly be offset by changes to Council Tax Discounts that the District Council is proposing, but most towns and parishes will find there is a shortfall in their funding, even after the government grant is distributed. Those parish and town councils who are in this situation will need to decide whether to make savings or to increase their council tax.

Given the above information, the Committee were advised that it may not be possible for the Town Council to agree the 2013/14 Budget and to set its Precept at the 10 January meeting and they were advised to set another meeting to enable this eventuality to be dealt with.

RESOLVED THAT:

- i) The draft 2013/14 Budget be received and noted at this stage and that further consideration on its contents be made at a Special Meeting of the Town Council to be held in January 2013.
- ii) A Special Town Council meeting be held on 31 January 2012 to agree the 2013/14 Budget and Precept.

(The Meeting closed at 8.47 p.m.)

Signed

Date