


HUNTINGDON TOWN COUNCIL**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

To; All Members of Huntingdon Town Council

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONSED TO ATTEND
a meeting of the
FINANCE COMMITTEE
to be held in
THE TOWN HALL, MARKET HILL, HUNTINGDON
on
THURSDAY, 15th JANUARY 2015 at 7.00pm

8th January 2015



PHILIP PEACOCK
TOWN CLERK

Town Hall
Market Hill
Huntingdon
PE29 3PJ

AGENDA**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

To receive and accept any apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive declarations of interest in items on this agenda. (See notes overleaf).

3. PUBLIC ADDRESS BY COUNCILLORS/MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

To hear any address to the Committee from Councillors or members of the public on matters within its responsibility.

4. ESTIMATES OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2015/2016

To receive and consider for adoption estimates of income and expenditure for the Council for the financial year 2015/16 (attached)

5. DETERMINATION OF APPLICATION FOR PRECEPT 2015/16

To determine the level of precept application for submission to the Huntingdonshire District Council for Huntingdon Town Council in 2015/16.

6. DATE & AGENDA OF THE NEXT MEETING

19th February 2014, in the Town Hall, Market Hill, Huntingdon.

This meeting will be serviced by the Town Clerk – 01480 410383

Copies for information to:

District Councillors; County Councillors; The Chairman and Chief Executive of Huntingdonshire District Council; The Press; Huntingdon Public Library and the Police.

Notes

A. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

(1) Members are required to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests and unless you have obtained dispensation, cannot discuss or vote on the matter at the meeting and must also leave the room whilst the matter is being debated or voted on.

(2) A Member has a disclosable pecuniary interest if it

(a) relates to you, or

(b) is an interest of -

(i) your spouse or civil partner; or (ii) a person with whom you are living as husband and wife; or (iii) a person with whom you are living as if you were civil partners and you are aware that the other person has the interest.

(3) Disclosable pecuniary interests includes -

(a) any employment or profession carried out for profit or gain;

(b) any financial benefit received by the Member in respect of expenses incurred carrying out his or her duties as a Member (except from the Council);

(c) any current contracts with the Council;

(d) any beneficial interest in land/property within the Council's area;

(e) any licence for a month or longer to occupy land in the Council's area;

(f) any tenancy where the Council is landlord and the Member (or person in (2)(b) above) has a beneficial interest; or

(g) a beneficial interest (above the specified level) in the shares of any body which has a place of business or land in the Council's area.

B. Other Interests

(4) If a Member has a non-disclosable pecuniary interest or a non-pecuniary interest then you are required to declare that interest, but may remain to discuss and vote.

(5) A Member has a non-disclosable pecuniary interest or a non-pecuniary interest where -

(a) a decision in relation to the business being considered might reasonably be regarded as affecting the well-being or financial standing of you or a member of your family or a person with whom you have a close association to a greater extent than it would affect the majority of the council tax payers, rate payers or inhabitants of the ward or electoral area for which you have been elected or otherwise of the Council's administrative area, or

(b) it relates to or is likely to affect any of the descriptions referred to above, but in respect of a member of your family (other than specified in (2)(b) above) or a person with whom you have a close association and that interest is not a disclosable pecuniary interest.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4

To: The Finance Committee

Date: 15th January 2015

ESTIMATES OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2015/16

(Report by the Town Clerk)

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 1.1 Members are presented with a final draft copy of proposed estimates of income and expenditure for the financial year 2015/16, following early scrutiny by Finance Working Party in December 2014. – copy attached
- 1.2 The original estimated budget was £1.3m to cover all of the Town Council responsibilities. The Town Clerk revisited the figures and revised this to £957,288, by removing major projects, e.g. Priory Road Cemetery Wall £100k, Medway Centre Roof £120k, which will need to be included in future budgets.
- 1.3 The Finance Working Party at its meeting in December 2014, made further reduction and managed to save an additional £49,825.

2 DETAILED CONSIDERATION

- 2.1 Your Officer considers these estimates continue to demonstrate that Huntingdon Town Council can provide quality local services at good value, as running costs show a significant decrease. Council's predicted net expenditure is £907,463, in 2015/16, as opposed to £916,756 in 2014/15.
- 2.2 All expenditure during 2015/16 must be met from Precept as the reserves have previously been reduced to just above minimum level.
- 2.3 Members will note within the Estimate of Income & Expenditure that a number of boxes are highlighted in red or blue. Red indicate previous figure reduced to zero, blue indicated figure reduced to the figure shown.
- 2.4 Member need to be aware of the Local Government Financial Statement, concerning the DCLG proposing that to the House of Commons in February that larger parishes or town councils with either a Precept over £500k or a Band D property threshold of £150 any increase in excess of 2% will require a referendum. As the final decision will not be taken by Government until after the Precept setting date has passed, Councils with an increase over 2% as requested to consider a contingency second budget.

2.5 The draft estimate is 2.5% increase on a Band D property, and to achieve a 2% figure, further savings totalling £7,823 will need to be found.

3. RECOMMENDATION

3.1 Members are recommended to receive and adopt the draft estimates of income and expenditure for 2015/16 presented and to recommend these for precept determination.

Contact Officer:

Philip Peacock

Town Clerk,

☎ 01480 410383

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5

To: Finance Committee

Date: 15th January 2015

DETERMINATION OF PRECEPT – 2015/16

(Report by the Town Clerk)

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 1.1 Members are asked to consider the amount of precept for which Huntingdon Town Council should apply to the Huntingdonshire District Council, to meet the cost of expenditure in 2015/16. As Members are fully aware, the District Council is responsible for collection of the local revenue required to fund the precept.
- 1.2 The Precept over the past two years was supported by Central Government Grant to HDC and drawing down on General Reserves. HDC no longer pass on the Central Government Grant (one of the few local authorities to not do so).

Year	Budget	Funded from HDC	Funded from Reserves	Precept
2013/14	£1,023,364	£83,265	£148,527	£791,572
2014/15	£1,014,337	0	£159,199	£855,138
2015/16	£907,463	0	0	£907,463

- 1.3 The Council is required to keep between 25% and 50% of the precept in General Reserves. Therefore a minimum of £ £226,866 needs to be retained in General Reserves
- 1.4 The current reserves are £267,923 in General Reserves and £18,518 in Repairs & Renewals respectively.
- 1.5 In addition there is a sum of £138,334 in the Capital Programme (extension to KGV Depot and for purchase of land). This funding can only be used on capital projects, and will need a motion laid before Full Council to transfer to another capital project.

2 DETAILED CONSIDERATION

- 2.1 Assuming that Members are willing to adopt the estimates presented at this meeting unaltered, the Council's predicted net expenditure in 2015/16 would be £907,463.
- 2.2 Members will note that although it is recommended that the Precept is increased, from the table above it is clear that the Town Council's Budget is decreasing year on year

- 2.3 The table attached (Appendix A) provides information about the level of precept set by the Council in 2012/13, 2013/14, 2014/15 and the current 2015/16 figure, showing the impact of changes to the Council Tax Base e.g. the number of contributing households.
- 2.6 The table further sets out the effect of the Council's precept setting upon the Council Tax paid by a Band D Householder, which is the accepted standard measure of increase in Local Government, depending on the level of precept that Member's consider is appropriate to set.
- 2.7 As should be clear, a precept of £907,463 does not include any contribution to the Council's Reserves, with the General Fund level being of 29% of the Council's annual gross expenditure by the end of 2015/16. This translates to an increase of £7.11 or 6.07% on the Band D rate.
- 2.8 A Precept of £907,463 translates to an increase of on a Band D property from £124.38 to £128.13 per annum, an increase of £3.75 or 2.5%, which equates to £0:047.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 Members are recommended to consider setting a precept which meets the requirements of the Council's estimates of income and expenditure in 2015/16 and which ensures financial security for the Council in accordance with policy.

Contact Officer:

Philip Peacock
Town Clerk,
☎ 01480 410383