

Precept Meeting held on Wednesday 14 December 2016 at the Village Hall

Attended by all Members. Chaired by Councillor Supriya Kapas;

Apologises from Councillor Cath Roberts.

1.1 – Precept – Details of the 2016/2017 budget and spend to 30 November 2016 were circulated with the projected out-turn figures for consideration. The various services were discussed and the following issues were considered and agreed.

2.1 - Administration – Professional fees – it was agreed to include a budget for professional advice which may be required by Council. The Council also agreed that Specific Legal fees required for the forth coming tribunal would be funded from reserves if necessary.

3.1 - Community – CCTV - The Council approved the funding of the CCTV on High Street, the Clerk advised the meeting that a new digital camera had been installed with no increase to the costs.

3.2 - Youth Service – A detailed breakdown of the suggested cost had been circulated previously indicating a total funding of £4,058 for 2017/2018, this included a management fee and project costs. The Council discussed the required funding and Councillor Dana Davies proposed and Councillor Paul Bickley seconded that the funding should be provided, a vote was taken and 11 Councillors supported the proposal with 2 abstentions. Councillor Paul Bickley proposed and Councillor Dana Davies seconded that a breakdown of spend should be provided to the Council and that any surplus funding should be returned 10 Councillors supported the proposal 3 abstentions. The Council approved both proposals.

3.3 - School Crossing Patrol – The Clerk reported he had received confirmation of a 1% increase in costs for 2017/2018 The Council agree the service was essential and supported its funding for 2017/2018.

3.4 - Playground – The Clerk also confirmed an increase of 1% in costs for the year 2017/2018 towards the running of the Wrexham owned sites and reminded the Council that the SLA required the Council to fund all necessary repairs to the equipment. The Council agreed to continue to fund the Playgrounds and to allow £1,000 budget for repairs, the budget would also include any work required on the Council's own site.

3.5 Ruabon Fete – The budget of £250 towards the management costs for the fete in 2017/2018 was also included.

3.6 Community Council Election – The Clerk informed the Council that the forthcoming elections to be held in May 2017 would require funding, based on the electorate size the Returning Officer had estimated a cost of £4,500, the Council agreed to make provision for the full amount.

4.1 – Employees – The Council had previously agreed that all staff would be paid the living wage, a new rate had been introduced in November 2016 and the Council agreed this would be implemented from 1 April 2017.

All staff would be paid a minimum of £8.45p per hour with effect from 1 April 2017. The Clerk's salary be paid in-line with NJC agreement and would include any pay award due from 1 April 2017 projected at 1%.

5.1 - Pavilion – Maintenance – The Clerk suggested that the budget for the Pavilion should remain as the previous year. Work on the internal alterations is to be funded from VHCMG's reserves as previously agreed. The Council agreed to the budget and to allow £2,000 to provide a fire alarm system once the work had been completed.

6.1 - Street Lighting – The Council agreed the budget for 2017/2018 should remain at the current level, the reduction in the energy costs following the up-grade of the system would fund the loan costs. The maintenance/replacement budget would allow for continued improvement to the system.

7.1 - Village Hall – Following consideration of the current level of expenditure the Council agreed to set an initial budget of £9,070 for 2017/2018 with the cost of the Caretaker's salary also to be included as part of running costs. This was agreed by Council.

Recommendations – Income

8.1 - Burial Fees – The Clerk reported that use of the Cemetery had been consistent over the past 2 years, The Council took this into account and agreed to increase the budget to £7,500 to reflect this.

9.1 - HMRC (VAT refund) –The Clerk pointed out that the current projected refund of VAT was £6,000 compared to the budget of £5,000. The Council recognised that the expenditure for the future year would be similar and agreed to increase the budget to reflect this.

10.1 - Village Hall – The levels of refund from the village hall account was based on the actual expenditure incurred during the year. The Council agreed the income budget should be set to reflect the running costs of the hall and the Caretaker's salary.

11.1 - Solar Panels – The Council agreed the income from both the Pavilion and Village Hall panels should remain at £650.

12.1 – Other Income – The levels of other incomes i.e. Cemetery Lodge and other rent/leases would remain unchanged.

13.1 – C/F Surplus 2016/2017 – The Council noted there was a shortfall in the level of income to support the expenditure and agreed that a surplus of £5,641 from the projected underspend in the 2016/2017 account should be used.

13.1 - Precept – Following consideration of the Council's commitments for 2017/2018 and the current balances the Council agreed to set the precept level at £80,000 – this is the fifth year the Council have maintained it at the same level and with the slight reduction in the number of properties actual costs to households will increase by approximately 5p over the full year..

Precept Approved Signed ...*S.Kapas*..... Chair Dated...14 December 2016.....