

2.

Abergele Town Council

MINUTES

A meeting of the Estimates Sub-Committee was held on Wednesday 6th December 2017 at 6.30pm in Room 4, Town Hall, Llanddulas Road, Abergele.

459/17 **Attendance Register**

The Mayor, D A MacRae;
Cllrs: M.D. Bird; A. Hunter; C. McCoubrey (non-member); S Rowlands;
R.G. Waters; A. Wood (non-member);
Mrs M. J. Evans (Clerk)

460/17 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from:
Cllr. B. C. Roberts;

461/17 **Declaration of Interest**

- Members were reminded that they must declare the **existence** and **nature** of any personal interests (using the form provided for this purpose).
None were declared

462/17 **Minutes**

- It was **RESOLVED** to **RECEIVE, APPROVE** and **SIGN** the Minutes of the Estimates Sub-Committee Meeting held on 13th December 2016.

463/17 **Annual Estimates 2018/19**

a) **Expenditure:**

- (i) A copy of the prioritised summary of action points/needs previously identified by the Council was RECEIVED.
- (ii) A copy of the previous Grant sheet was NOTED for information purposes only.
- (iii) The estimated expenditure of the Council for 2018/19 was considered as detailed in the Draft Estimates provided by the Clerk. Members requested that the following items were amended as NOTED:

1g	Information Technology	- reduced from £12000 to £6500 for support costs of £3500, £1000 Data Protection, £2000 towards new hardware
2d	Council Regalia	- reduced from £500 to £250
2g	Council Regalia Civic	- reduced from £400 to 0
3d	General Maintenance	- reduced from £3k to £2500
3g	Misc. Office Equip	- reduced from £1000 to £500
7a	Annual Audit	- increased from £400 to £495
8b	OVW	- reduced from £1800 to 0
8h	Twinning	- reduced from £12 to 0
11a	The Mount	- reduced from £2500 to £2k for £1500 grass cutting £1500 removal of dens £1k

11b	Flower beds	-	reduced from £6k to £5.5k
11d	Pensarn flower beds	-	increased from £500 to £1000
11e	Notice Boards	-	reduced from £500 to £200
11f	Floodlighting PMP	-	reduced from £950 to £750
12b	Conference Expenses	-	reduced from £350 to £250
13	Elections	-	reduced from £3k to £1.5k
14l	St George V. Hall	-	Commitment for 2017/18 removed and to write to committee to inform that the match funding will only be held for the 2018/19 financial year
14a	Christmas Decorations	-	reduced from £25k to £24k
14b	Community Events	-	reduced from £3k to £2k
14O	Improved Tourism Sign	-	reduced from £500 to 0
15a	Bus shelter	-	reduced from £10k to £2k match funding only
18c	Professional Legal fees	-	reduced from £2k to £1k
19b	Website	-	reduced from £6k to £600 maintenance of existing site only
19d	Other notices	-	reduced from £850 to £500

It was proposed that £10,000 is released from the Hall & Development fund to fund specific Community projects for 2018/19 i.e. Car Parks to balance the budget.

b)

Income:

- (i) The estimated income for 2018/19, excluding the precept was CONSIDERED.
- (ii) The fees and charges applicable from April 2018 to March 2019 were CONSIDERED. It was RECOMMENDED, to raise the hire costs by 10%. The costs for advertising were raised for the smaller adverts but the full page was reduced to encourage more advertisers.

c)

Transfers to / from reserves:

- (i) The Council's policy regarding the level of reserves held and that the Council aims to continue to retain a minimum general reserve of approximately 25% of the annual precept was APPROVED. A Draft copy of the Policy as suggested by the Internal Auditor was RECEIVED, CONSIDERED and APPROVED. It was NOTED that the Draft Estimates predict a general reserve of £66,621 which is approximately 26.33% of the total precept.
- (ii) The Annual Investment Strategy for 2018/19 as detailed on Schedule 'B' was reviewed. The RECOMMENDATION with regard to the Hall and Development Account to continue with the current level recommended by the auditor of a maximum of £60k to cover alternative planned work for the building. The transfer from the Hall & Development Account of £10,000 above to the General Reserve was also NOTED.

d)

Precept

- (i) The recommended level of increase/decrease in the precept was REVIEWED. It was **RESOLVED to RECOMMEND to full Council that the precept for 2018/19 is set as £253,051 an increase of £38,298 from the 2017/18 precept of £214,753. This increase is due to the**

Council looking to offer free parking in the Town, bus shelters, and other Community Schemes in the area. The average 'Band D' will therefore increase from £46.26 to £54.45, and that the estimated shortfall of income to expenditure of £13,000 is taken from the Council's general reserve. It was then FURTHER RESOLVED to REFER the DRAFT ESTIMATES for 2017/18 to the full Council for approval.

Meeting Closed at 9:30pm

Signed
(Chairman)