

SANDHURST TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of an Extra-ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held in the Kitty Dancy Room, Sandhurst Community Hall Complex on Thursday 7th February 2008 at 7.30 p.m. ending at 7.46 p.m.

PRESENT:- Councillors - N Allen (Chairman), A Blatchford, N Bowers, M Brossard, R Edger, Mrs D Pidgeon, R Piggin, G Ramsey, A Ronca, Mrs A Shephard.

APOLOGIES:- Councillors - Mrs J Bettison, P Bettison, R Blair, Mrs C Cupper, A Haseeb, D Honey, N Skinner, A Ward, D Worrall.

146. Public Question Time. A Member of the public enquired as to whether the Meeting was quorate. The Executive Officer confirmed that the Council was quorate. **NOTED.**

147. The Mayor opened the meeting announcing that it was an extraordinary meeting called under Standing Order 3. He stated that it was a single item agenda as shown in the calling papers.

“To approve the Precept figure for the financial year 2008 - 2009”.

The Mayor then presented the Recommendation from the Strategy and Policy Committee meeting held on 24th January 2008.

The Mayor Proposed that:

“The budget proposals for the financial year 2008 - 2009 be approved and as a result the level of Precept for the financial year 2008 - 2009 be £532,615 ”.

The Motion was Seconded by Cllr Piggin.

In his opening remarks the Mayor referred to the figures distributed with the calling papers. These showed that based upon a Band D Council Tax the precept figures would be £67.08 per household. It shows a 3% increase of £1.95, which is less than 4p a week.

A detailed analysis of the figures identified the continuing rise in the core expenditure. He drew Members' attention to the increased sound investment in the park and the programme of community events.

Although the proposed increase would mean a drop in the reserve funds the 3% increase is in line with inflation giving a balanced budget, therefore the Mayor commended the budget to the Council.

Cllr Piggin, as seconder, then spoke in support of the motion. Initial concerns over the use of reserves prompted Cllr Piggin to look back over past records of accounts where he found that in the last six years every year but one showed savings, the exception being the year the Council supported the Boys and Girls Football Club with the changing room extension project. Cllr Piggin felt that the Council were not here to build up large reserves and the money should be used for Sandhurst.

Cllr Edger also supported the budget, particularly in the leisure area, where £10,000 had been set-aside for the Skate Ramp extension and £10,000 for additional welfare facilities for the ground staff. He also commended the contribution to the Sandhurst Silver Band Centenary Concert and thought it a well-balanced budget.

The cultural events were highlighted having recently signed up ‘The Three Other Tenors’ and a Cuban Salsa band both of which will appear at an event in July. There would also be a showing of ‘Town Mouse, Country Mouse’, which will take part in the Sandhurst Community Hall as part of the Sandhurst Town Council and the South Hill Park partnership.

The Mayor called for a vote and the Motion was unanimously carried.