



**Central Milton Keynes Town Council  
Budget Meeting held on 16th January 2020  
At Margaret Powell House, Midsummer Boulevard,  
Central Milton Keynes**

**Present:** Rebecca Kurth (Chair)  
Andre Brady (to item 20/020)  
Oya Discombe  
Linda Inoki  
Gill Kirkup  
Andrew Thomas  
Paul Cranfield (Clerk)

**Apologies:** None

**Absent:** Amir Chahardehi, Ramo Erdogan

**In attendance:** No members of the public were present

	<b>Minutes</b>	<b>Actions</b>
20/016	<b>Apologies</b> No apologies were received for the meeting.	
20/017	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> There were no additional declarations of interest in regard to items featuring on the agenda.	
20/018	<b>Review of Action Plan</b> The paper, as previously circulated, was noted.  A comprehensive review of the Town Council's Action plan was undertaken.  It was agreed that the annual review of the plan should, in future years, take place at the December meeting in order to enable any budget requirements for the forthcoming year to be identified and factored into proposals for the budget meeting.  It was agreed that a paper considering the council's Facebook and/or Twitter presence be brought to the Town Council at its February or March meeting.	PC  PC/AB/RK/TW
20/019	<b>Staffing Update</b> The paper, as previously circulated, was noted.  It was agreed that an annual increment as recommended by NALC of up to 3% in staff salaries be made without reference to the Town Council. However, an item for noting should be included in papers after the event.	

	<p>It was further agreed that Thomas Walker's roles will include clerk's cover and IT support, with an additional element of 'one to one' IT training for councillors as required.</p>	
20/020	<p><b>Website Revisions</b> The paper, as previously circulated, was noted.</p> <p>It was agreed that a maximum sum of £2000 be allocated to enable Thomas Walker to undertake website revisions and an accessibility review. It was requested that a time report be submitted with invoices for the work undertaken.</p> <p>Additionally, it was agreed that user testing takes place with the refreshed website prior to sign-off.</p> <p>Councillor Brady left the meeting at this juncture.</p>	<p>TW</p> <p>TW</p>
20/021	<p><b>Community Facility Reserves</b> The paper, as previously circulated, was noted.</p> <p>It was agreed to defer this item until consideration of the precept.</p>	
20/022	<p><b>Budget &amp; Precept Proposals 2020/21</b> The papers, as previously circulated, were noted.</p> <p>i) <b>Proposed Operating Budget</b> Small amendments were made to the operating budget including:- 'Community mobiliser' to be changed to 'Staffing for special projects'. A paper to be brought to the Town Council in due course to consider further.</p> <p>Dog litter bins budget increased to £800 for forthcoming years.</p> <p>The operating budget was approved as amended above.</p> <p>ii) <b>Proposed Community Facilities and Reserves Budget</b> Noted</p> <p>iii) <b>Proposed Reserves and Precept</b> Discussions ensued regarding the amount which the precept should be increased, noting the increase in Band 'D' equivalent households in the past year.</p> <p>Concerns were expressed at the proposal to increase the contribution to the community facility reserve by £10,000 per annum at the current time.</p> <p>At this juncture, the Chair called for a vote on the proposals for precept increase. Councillor Thomas requested a recorded vote on the options before them. The recorded votes on the options proposed by councillors were as follows:-</p> <p><b>Increase of 0%- For Cllr Thomas</b> <b>Against</b> Cllrs Kirkup, Kurth and Inoki <b>Abstain</b> Cllr Discombe</p> <p><b>Proposal fell</b></p> <p><b>Increase of 1.5%- For Cllrs Discombe and Thomas</b> <b>Against</b> Cllrs Kirkup and Kurth</p>	

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Abstain</b> Cllr Inoki <b>Proposal fell</b> on Chair's casting vote against.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Increase of 2.5%- For</b> Cllrs Kirkup and Kurth <b>Against</b> Cllrs Discombe and Thomas <b>Abstain</b> Cllr Inoki <b>Proposal agreed</b> on Chair's casting vote</p> <p>A subsequent vote was taken on the proposal to increase community facilities reserves funding by £10,000 per annum (as referenced in item 20/021).</p> <p><b>For-</b> Cllrs Kirkup and Kurth <b>Against-</b> Cllrs Discombe and Thomas <b>Abstain-</b> Cllr Inoki <b>Proposal fell on Chair's casting vote</b></p>	
20/023	<p><b>Precept 2020/2021</b> Pursuant to discussions as above, the Town Council agreed to increase its precept by 2.5%, which equates to a Band 'D' equivalent levy of £77.97.</p>	
20/024	<p><b>Transfer of Funds</b> The paper, as previously circulated, was noted.</p> <p>The transfers to savings accounts to increase reserves from the Town Council's current account were approved.</p>	
20/025	<p><b>Items for Next Agenda</b> None</p> <p>The meeting closed at 8.45pm.</p> <p><b>The next scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at Centrecom</b></p>	

Chair's Signature.....

Date.....