



**Central Milton Keynes Town Council
Extraordinary Budget Meeting held on 23rd January 2014
At Centrecom, 602 North Row, Central Milton Keynes**

Present: Rebecca Kurth (Chair)
Charles Ashbury
Ken Baker
Andre Brady
Linda Inoki
Andrew Thomas
Paul Cranfield (Clerk)

Apologies: Ramo Erdogan

Members of the public: None

	Minutes	Actions
1	<p>Welcome & Apologies. Councillor Kurth welcomed councillors to the meeting and noted apologies from Councillor Erdogan. She advised that the purpose of the meeting was to ensure that an agreement was reached on the level of precept to be levied during Council Tax Year 2014-15.</p>	
2	<p>Priorities & Budget for 2014/15 The papers, as listed below were tabled for consideration during this item:- Proposed Budget Proposed Priorities List</p> <p>The Chair introduced the item noting that the proposed priorities list had been developed by factoring in councillors' views and ideas. The precept to deliver the priorities had been costed and the estimate was that a level of precept equivalent to that received in the current year would enable delivery of the priorities and enable business as usual activity to take place.</p> <p>To determine the validity of the adopted process and the priorities resulting from this, the Chair spoke to the Draft Priorities paper, noting the relationship between the headings on the paper and those on the budget document.</p> <p>The following observations were made during the discussion on the priorities:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Deputy Clerk/Project Officer role is becoming necessary as the Town Council becomes more ambitious. The workload undertaken by councillors cannot realistically be maintained and if the Town Council wishes to continue to develop it will need resource support. • The Town Council has benefitted from a fresh approach to issues and it is important that this is not lost as it grows. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The detail of technical support, website support and the warden project proposals were debated later in the meeting, but the principles accepted at this time. • The lengthy list of projects was challenged by a councillor who expressed the view that a smaller, more manageable list would be preferable. • It was noted that the items on the list are in addition to the Town Council's Business As Usual activity. • The need for IT support was accepted to enable councillors to apply their time to projects. • A councillor suggested that an administrative support would be needed in addition to, or in the stead of a projects officer. It was agreed that this would be debated at a later date, the key issue being that the Town Council accepted the need for additional support to enable its councillors to continue to be effective, and this would require a line in the budget. <p>After a lengthy and wide-ranging discussion the priorities list was slightly reduced but the principle of the proposed actions requiring funding support was accepted.</p> <p>At this juncture the Chair put forward a proposal that the precept for 2014/15 should be maintained at 2013/14 levels, which it was anticipated would raise around £54,000. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Inoki.</p> <p>Councillor Baker, seconded by Councillor Thomas, put forward a counter-proposal that the precept be reduced to £47,500. Following discussion, a vote was taken on the second proposal, which was defeated.</p> <p>A vote was then taken on the primary proposal, which was carried with one vote against.</p> <p>The Clerk was requested to advise MKCouncil of the precept level required for the forthcoming year.</p>	PC
3	<p>Maybe Magazine The paper, as previously circulated, was noted.</p> <p>Councillor Brady made the case for engaging Maybe Magazine to write the static content for the website.</p> <p>Following significant debate, Councillor Brady proposed that the Town Council engage Maybe Magazine to undertake work as outlined in the brief and a sum of £1,000 be paid. No other councillor seconded the proposal, which fell.</p> <p>It was agreed that the request be re-considered at the next full council meeting in two weeks' time. To assist the debate it was also agreed that Councillors Brady, Inoki, Kurth and Ashbury consider a proposal to bring to that meeting, when a decision would be reached.</p>	RK/LI/AB/CA
4	<p>Shared Warden The paper, as previously circulated, was noted.</p> <p>The Chair outlined the principle behind jointly funding a street warden for CMK with MKCCM. The Town Council agreed unanimously with the principle, but felt that more work needed to be done on the roles and responsibilities, and structure of an SLA to support the funding</p>	

	<p>agreement. It was agreed that regular updates to the Town Council would be a requirement of the role.</p> <p>It was also agreed that Councillors Kurth, Brady, Ashbury and the Clerk undertake to develop thinking on this project.</p>	RK/AB/CA/PC
5	<p>Clerk's Remuneration The paper, as previously circulated, was noted.</p> <p>The Clerk left the room for the discussion on this item.</p> <p>Upon his return, the Clerk was advised that the recommended increase had been unanimously agreed. The Clerk thanked the Town Council.</p>	
6	<p>IT Equipment and Support The paper, as previously circulated, was noted.</p> <p>The Chair spoke to the paper, and proposed that the purchase of a laptop, software and security cable be agreed. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Inoki and passed unanimously.</p> <p>The Chair also mentioned that she had identified someone living within CMK who could take on the website administrator and IT technical support role, the proposal being that the role would be remunerated by way of an honorarium. The principle was unanimously agreed, but a decision on who might undertake the work was deferred to the next meeting for further consideration.</p>	
7	<p>Precept Newsletter The paper, as previously circulated, was noted.</p> <p>After some discussion a proposal was made by Councillor Inoki and seconded by Councillor Ashbury that on this occasion the need to insert a Town Council letter into Council Tax bills was not evident, and that the offer should not be pursued. An alternative proposal by Councillor Baker that a leaflet is inserted did not receive a seconder. The substantive proposal was agreed with one councillor against.</p> <p>The view was strongly expressed that the current quarterly newsletters would serve to provide all the information residents require on the work of the Town Council and the reason why a leaflet was not included with Council Tax bills should be incorporated into the next newsletter.</p>	
8	<p>The meeting closed at 6.55 pm</p> <p>The next scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday 6th February at Centrecom commencing at 6pm.</p>	