

Present: Deputy Mayor, Councillor S Gawrysiak
Councillor M Akehurst
Councillor Mrs J Bland
Councillor D Clenshaw
Councillor W Hamilton.
Councillor Miss L Hillier
Councillor D Hinke
Councillor Ms L Meachin
Councillor D Nimmo-Smith
Councillor Mrs P Phillips
Councillor I Reissmann
Councillor D Silvester
Councillor Mrs J Wood

In Attendance: Mr M W Kennedy - Town Clerk
Mrs J Brazil - Minute Taker / Committee Administrator
Mr C Austin - Town Sergeant

Also Present: 1 member of the press

73. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the Mayor, Councillor Mrs E Hodgkin and Councillors Miss S Evans & Miss K Gehrmann.

74. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

75. 2013-2014 BUDGET

Members had before them a report on the revenue and capital budgets for 2013-2014. A Member addressed the Council on the proposed budget for 2013 – 2014 and suggested that in the light of the current economic uncertainty within the Country as a whole, it was unwise to accept the budget before the Council. Given the grant of £26,000 from South Oxfordshire District Council, he suggested that the Council consider both the Mayoral increase be reduced from 2.5% to 0% and the Staff salary increase of 1% also be reduced to 0% so as to keep the amount to the Council tax payer to a minimum.

In noting that staff contracts are linked to the National pay settlement agreed by the Joint Council for Local Government Services, the Green book, it was proposed

that there be no increase in the level of The Precept and Mayor's Allowance for 2013 - 2014

A recorded vote was requested.

For

Cllr Mrs J Bland
Cllr W Hamilton
Cllr Miss L Hillier
Cllr D Nimmo-Smith
Cllr D Silvester

Against

Cllr M Akehurst
Cllr D Clenshaw
Cllr S Gawrysiak
Cllr D Hinke
Cllr Ms L Meachin
Cllr Mrs P Phillips
Cllr I Reissmann
Cllr Mrs J Wood

Abstention

The motion was lost.

A Member proposed acceptance of the revenue and capital budgets for 2013–14 subject to a reduction in the Mayor's allowance of 1% in line with the estimated increase in staff salaries, subsequent year increases to be linked with staff salary increases.

Speaking to the motion, a member explained that the actual precept year on year had gone down but that the Council was able to increase grants to local organisations, increase the level of financial support to NOMAD, include plans for the refurbishment of Mill Meadows toilets and engage and lead on the Neighbourhood Plan,

An amendment to the motion to cut £5,000 from the Henley in Bloom revenue budget in 2013–14 was declared lost where upon it was **RESOLVED**

- (i) that subject to a reduction in the Mayor's Allowance from £6,700 to £6,600 representing a 1% increase, the whole of the revenue and capital budget for 2013-2014 be received, approved and adopted; and
- (ii) that a Precept of £467,700 be levied on South Oxfordshire District Council for 2013–2014.

76. COUNCIL TAX LEAFLET

Members had before them a tabled updated copy of the Council Tax leaflet for approval. A debate ensued on the wording of the leaflet, in particular the grammar, the omission of the River Pageant to commemorate the Queens Diamond Jubilee and the addition of the purchase and installation of solar panel on some of the councils property.

After a lengthy debate it was **RESOLVED**

that the updated version of the Council Tax leaflet and the recommendations therein be represented to the Finance, Strategy and Management Committee, with delegated powers to act, for grammatical revision and corrections only and then sent to South Oxfordshire District Council for inclusion with the Council Tax demand for 2013-2014.

77. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

It was moved by the Chairman and **RESOLVED**

that the public and the press be excluded from the remainder of the meeting in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as matters which were about to be discussed were considered to be confidential.

**MINUTES OF THE CONFIDENTIAL SESSION OF THE FULL COUNCIL HELD ON
15 JANUARY 2013**

78. TOWN MEDAL NOMINATIONS

The Town Clerk explained the reporting process for the Town Medal Committee and the presentation of their minutes to Full Council.

The minutes of the meeting of the Town Medal Committee held on Tuesday 6 December 2012 were before the Council. A member suggested that the confidential minute of the meeting was incomplete because it omitted to record the names of the two candidates who had not been recommended to receive the Town Medal.

A member suggested that the recipient of a Town Medal should be a member of the community who has shown exceptional standing and been of exceptional character.

A view was expressed that members needed to trust the judgement of the Committee otherwise there was no purpose convening a Town Medal Committee only for Full Council to reconsider the candidates a second time. It was **RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Town Medal Committee held on Tuesday 6 December 2012 and the recommendations therein be received, approved and adopted; and that the procedural matters on this Committee be discussed at a further meeting of the Full Council and taken as a separate Agenda item.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm .

jb

Mayor