

ELLESMERE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of the Town Council held in Ellesmere Town Hall on Monday 28th January, 2019 at 10.30am.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Town Mayor (Chair):	Cllr R Hartley
	Councillors:	Cllrs Mrs J Clayton, Mrs J Costa, G Elner, P Goulbourne, D Lunn, Mrs E Peers, Mrs A Wignall and Mrs J Williams
	Town Clerk:	Mandy Evans
	Assistant Clerk:	Phil Smith
	Members of the Public:	0
	Press:	0

Public Question Time No members of the public were present.

209/18 **To Receive Apologies and Reason for Absence.**

RESOLVED - that the apology received from Councillor B Reincke – work commitment – be approved.

210/18 **Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests in Items on the Agenda**

Cllr P Goulbourne declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to the grant applications by the Ellesmere Sculpture Initiative and Plantation Wood Group, and to the funding request for Ellesmere Library, for consideration as part of agenda item 5a – Budget 2019/20.

Cllr Mrs A Wignall declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to the grant applications by the Ellesmere Sculpture Initiative and Ellesmere In Bloom, and to the funding request for Ellesmere Library, for consideration as part of agenda item 5a – Budget 2019/20.

211/18 **Grant Dispensations**

The Town Mayor advised that the view of the National Association of Local Councils was that all or most Members of a Parish/Town Council will hold a disclosable pecuniary interest at a meeting setting the Council's precept. Last year, in accordance with S.33 of the Localism Act 2011, all members of the Town Council were granted a dispensation to allow the precept requirements for 2018/19 **and for the following three financial years** to be discussed and determined (Minute 196/17). Noted.

212/18 **Response to Public Questions**

None received.

2019/20 Budget

The Finance, Asset & Resources Committee had looked at the 2019/20 budget proposals in detail on 16 January 2019, and the draft minutes of that meeting had been circulated. The Committee had made a number of recommendations for consideration by the Full Council.

The following information had been circulated to Members:

- Draft budget estimates for 2019/20;
- Budget explanations document;
- Outstanding bank loans;
- Bank Balances;
- Breakdown of Income and Expenditure;
- Band D Council Tax Base

It was moved by Cllr Mrs J Clayton, seconded by Cllr Mrs A Wignall and

RESOLVED -

(a) that the total Town Council budget for 2019/20 be increased by £5,464 (equivalent to 1% increase in the Council Tax precept) to £212,300;

(b) that all the grant applications for £250 be approved, except for Crane Counselling;

(c) that the Grants budget be reduced by £500 to £16,220, with the Town Council Contingencies budget being increased by £500 to £2,500;

(d) that £10,000 be taken as a one-off from reserves for a contribution towards a feasibility study for the re-development of Swan Hill Depot;

(e) that £5,000 be taken as a one-off from reserves for the support of Ellesmere Library at "Our Space", with the expectation that Bethphage seek financial assistance from other Parish Councils in the locality and from other stakeholders.

(NB: Cllr Mrs E Peers abstained from voting)

(NB: Cllr P Goulbourne did not vote in respect of the applications for funding from the Sculpture Initiative, Plantation Wood Group and Ellesmere Library.

Cllr Mrs A Wignall did not vote in respect of the applications for funding from the Sculpture Initiative, In Bloom and Ellesmere Library)

Council Tax Precept Request 2019/20

The Council Tax Base for 2019/20 had increased by 1.62% which, with a zero increase in the council tax charge, would equate to a precept requirement of £210,200 for 2019/20.

Further to the discussions and recommendations at minute 213 above, it was

RESOLVED –

(a) that a precept request of £212,300 be approved, and that this precept request be made to Shropshire Council with the following financial statement: “Ellesmere Town Council continue to look for ways to ensure best value and service for the community. There have been a number of ongoing issues requiring increased expenditure and one-off use of reserves which, together with general inflationary pressures on running costs, has necessitated a 1% increase in the precept for 2019/20”;

(b) that the Band D Council Tax increase is 1.0% from £147.99 to £149.47 = 0.03p per week.

215/18

Planning

(a) Planning Applications for Consideration

(i) 19/00261/TCA – Moors Car Park, Mereside, Ellesmere – remove 5no Poplar trees within Ellesmere Conservation Area.

Concerns were expressed at the further loss of trees around The Mere, and whether the Shropshire Council Tree Officer had been consulted. The Town Mayor advised that the trees were not protected by a TPO, and that as Shropshire Council was the applicant, it was likely the Tree Officer would have been consulted. The main reasons for the removal of the trees were to promote a wetland habitat and because the trees were at an age when they were likely to start to fail.

It was moved by Cllr G Elner, seconded by Cllr Mrs E Peers and

RESOLVED – that the application be supported, with the request that suitable replacement trees be planted elsewhere around The Mere Country Park area.

(ii) 19/00182/VAR – 5 Diksmuide Drive, Ellesmere – variation of condition number 2 attached to planning permission ref: 18/04874/FUL dated 20 December 2018 to allow amendments to the approved plans

It was noted that the Council had supported the original planning application for a first floor extension and alterations to the existing dwelling. The variation being applied for concerned adding extra floor area to the dining room at the rear of the property.

Members felt there was not enough clear information available with the application regarding the measurements/size of the proposed extension to the dining room and it was

RESOLVED – that the application be deferred to the Town Council meeting on 4 February 2019 in order to allow further information to be provided on the measurements/size of the proposed extension to the dining room.

(b) Planning Applications Received After the Issue of the Agenda

(i) 19/00266/FUL – 41 Oak Drive, Ellesmere – erection of ground floor single storey extension.

It was moved by Cllr G Elner, seconded by Cllr P Goulbourne and

RESOLVED – that the application be supported.

(ii) 19/00263/FUL – 46 Cambria Avenue, Ellesmere – erection of a single storey front extension.

It was moved by Cllr G Elner, seconded by Cllr P Goulbourne and

RESOLVED – that the application be supported.

The meeting closed at 11.01am

Mayor:

Date: