

Minutes of the meeting of the Finance, Asset & Resources Committee held on  
Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 5.30pm.

PRESENT: Councillors: Cllr G Hutchinson (Chair), P Goulbourne, L Woodbridge, A Wignall, J Howard, N Proffitt, and A Weeks

Town Clerk and RFO:  
Assistant Clerk and Assistant RFO

Jo Butterworth  
Gem Whitley

FAR 01/25/01 **To receive apologies and reasons for absence.**

Apologies were received from Cllr M Hancock due to work commitments and Cllr G Elner who may be late due to a prior engagement.

It was moved by Cllr A Wignall, seconded by Cllr L Woodbridge and

**RESOLVED: that the apologies and reasons for absence be approved.**

FAR 01/25/02 **Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.**

None disclosed.

FAR 01/25/03 **Grant Dispositions.**

None requested.

FAR 01/25/04 **Minutes.**

**(a)** It was moved by Cllr P Goulbourne, seconded by Cllr L Woodbridge and

**RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Finance, Asset & Resources Committee meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> December 2024 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.**

FAR01/25/05 **Town Hall Toilet Sinks.**

The Clerk explained to members that the water flow system for the hot taps needs to be improved to satisfy the legionella risk assessment criteria. A local plumber can do a test on the system for £150 and if successful, can improve the water flow on all the basins on the ladies for £480 and the gents for £480.

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

**RESOLVED: to instruct the test to be done and if successful, to implement the necessary changes to all hand basins.**

FAR 01/25/06 **Grant Applications.**

The Clerk informed members that they still had £1,400 in the grant pot for 2024/2025.

A grant application for £390 from Music MOB was considered.

It was moved by Cllr G Hutchinson, seconded by Cllr L Woodbridge and

**RESOLVED: to award £390 to Music MOB.**

A grant application for £500 was considered from Nightingale Trust in Wrexham.

It was moved by Cllr Woodbridge, seconded by Cllr Wignall and

**RESOLVED: that the application be denied, unfortunately, the application did not meet the Town Council's Grant awarding Policy criteria.**

FAR 01/25/07 **Budget Deliberations.**

The Clerk circulated the draft budget produced at the Finance meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> December 2024, together with a copy of the Council Tax Base implications for a Band D property based on a 5% increase in precept, as agreed on the 16<sup>th</sup> December 2024. She explained that due to a added expenditure in the street furniture cost centre, 4320/103, she has increased next year’s budget from £500 to £800, which left a surplus of £7,870 to be allocated to the budget based on a precept of £310,267.65. At the last meeting members had asked the Clerk to put any surplus into contingency pots. The Clerk informed members that the following amounts had been allocated to the following contingency pots.

4700/101 Town Hall Administration Contingencies	£1,870
4701/103 Community Services Contingencies	£2,000
4702/104 Recreation Contingencies	£2,000
4703/201 Town Hall Administration	£2,000

Whilst working through the budget on the 16<sup>th</sup> December, the Clerk informed members of any overspends in the budget and reasons why, she informed members at tonight’s meeting that she has included this information in the budget notes.

Members were happy that based on a 5% increase in precept that a balanced budget of £381,168 had been achieved.

It was moved by Cllr Hutchinson, seconded by Cllr L Woodbridge and

**RESOLVED: to stand by their decision of the 16<sup>th</sup> of September and recommend to full council that they request a 5% increase in the precept from Shropshire Council for the 2025/2026 Financial Year compared to 2024/2025, amounting to a precept of £310,267.65. If approved the Band D Council tax charge will increase from £185.16 per year to £194.42 (equivalent to 18 pence per week).**

FAR 01/25/08 **Ear Marked Reserves.**

A report on the bank balances and ear marked reserves as at the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 had been circulated to members at the start of the meeting.

At the last meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> December members had agreed to recommend to council that they increase the Town Hall Capital Ear Marked Reserves by £30,000 by moving the £30,000 from the Lobby EMR into it. They also agreed to recommend earmarking £5,000 for Cemetery Land and £40,000 for Jointly Owned Properties, to cover repairs at Mere Cottage, from the general reserves.

The Clerk informed members that the current general reserves are £237,010.59 and if council agrees to ear mark £45,000 as above, the general reserves will reduce to £192,010.59. Members were happy that the council would be left with adequate general reserves.

It was moved by Cllr A Wignall, seconded by Cllr J Howard and

**RESOLVED: to recommend to council that as of the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025, the £30,000 in the Lobby EMR be moved to the Town Hall Capital EMR creating a balance of £35,276.00.**

**FURTHER RESOLVED: to recommend to council that £45,000 from general reserves is used to create an EMR of £5,000 for future Cemetery land and £40,000 used to create an EMR for Jointly Owned Properties.**

The meeting closed at 17.48pm.

Chair: .....Date: .....