

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PRECEPT MEETING OF SOUTHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE GRANGE HALL, COVENTRY ROAD, SOUTHAM ON THURSDAY, 13th JANUARY 2011

Present: The Mayor, Councillor J Soni - In the Chair
Councillors G Thomas, P Thomas, A Crump,
D Smith, B Thomas, L Hewer, R Waller, C Worsh, W Hawkins, T Spence

Apologies:

Cllr L Tasker	Personal
Cllr P Caruana	Personal
Cllr D Isham	Personal

In Attendance: Mrs D Carro, Mrs D Sanders, Cllr D Wise and Cllr J Ellard

114. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

115. REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

116. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING RESOLVED:

(i) That the Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 25th November 2010, having previously been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Town Mayor subject to the following amendments

Minute 102 to read 'adjourned' not closed

Minute 103 to read 'resumed' not opened

(ii) That the Minutes of the recess meeting held on Friday 17th December 2010 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor

117. RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER REPORT
PARISH TAX BASE

The provisional Council Tax Base for Southam 2011/2012 had been calculated at £2364.73 **Noted**

118. BUDGET PROPOSALS

The proposed figures for the 2011/2012 budget were based on a 3.3% inflation allowance. Where there was a clear need to revise the figure in light of current levels of expenditure, or known changes likely to occur, a new proposed figure was shown. **Noted**

119. ELECTORATE

Statistics verified to 1st December 2010 showed that the electorate in Southam stood at 4996. Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 limited a Council's expenditure on grants to £6.44 per elector. **Noted**

120. COUNCIL'S AIMS

The Council had agreed to the following aims that were taken into consideration in all policy matters:

1. To improve the service it provides whilst ensuring best value
2. To work with others to improve safety, the environment and quality of life in the town, paying particular attention to the needs of vulnerable members of our community
3. To regularly and effectively consult the community
4. To promote the local economy

Noted

121. CONSIDERATION OF THE BUDGET FOR 2011/2012

RESOLVED: To agree the figures proposed, subject to the following amendments:

121.1 Item 4 – Legal Fees & Services

RESOLVED: To set a budget of £1000 for this item.

121.2 Item 31 – Repairs Inspections & Replacements

RESOLVED: To spend the current year surplus on this line on Park Lane renovation and to set a budget of £5000 for this item.

121.3 RESOLVED:

i) to include a new budget line 31a - Park Lane Renovation and to set a budget of £47230

ii) That the Clerk in conjunction with Cllr A Crump take the project forward and is authorised to place orders

121.4 Item 33a – Tollgate Road Additional Services

RESOLVED: To delete this line

121.5 Item 37 – Grange Hall Transitional Funding

RESOLVED: To delete this line

121.6 Item 41a – Tollgate Road

RESOLVED: To delete this line.

121.7 Item 42 – Concessionary Travel

RESOLVED: To set a budget of £7500 for this item and to raise the qualifying age to 65 years and over and the Registered Disabled only.

121.8 Item 44 – Churchyard Maintenance

RESOLVED: To set a budget of £4626

121.9 Item 45 – Trina Gulliver Tribute

RESOLVED: To rename this line ‘Youth Initiative’

121.10 Item 46 – Projects to weather the Credit Crunch

RESOLVED: to delete this line

122 Additional Proposals

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk should investigate the possibilities of the church grass cutting being included in the Town Council grass cutting contract

123. REVIEW OF EARMARKED RESERVES

RESOLVED: That the following changes be made to earmarked reserves

(i) That a new line is created for Park Lane Renovation and that the following earmarked amounts are transferred to that line from;

Traffic calming	£17162	Balance remaining £3000
Southam Youth Project Mayor's Fund	£1439	Balance nil - delete line
Southam @ Play	£15140	Balance nil - delete line
Town Centre Consultant	£2500	Balance nil - delete line
Play Equipment	£1570	Balance nil - delete line
Total	£37811	

(ii) That the surplus on budget line 4 Legal Fees and Services currently £1750 is transferred to earmarked reserves at the end of the financial year.

(iii) That the surplus on budget line 40 currently £9464 is transferred to earmarked reserves at the end of the financial year.

(iv) That the surplus on line 41 currently £1188 is transferred to earmarked reserves at the end of the financial year

(v) That any surplus on line 32 should be earmarked for a Mayfield Play Area

124. URGENT BUSINESS

RESOLVED:

(i) To appoint Cllr Soni to represent the Council on the Southam Business Support Grants Recommendation Panel

(ii) Not to send a representative to the Big Society Conference on 25th January

125. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

It was moved and

RESOLVED: That pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the public be excluded from the meeting because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted.

126. PROPOSED BUDGET 2011/2012 The Town Clerk and Deputy left the room.

RESOLVED: To agree the figures proposed subject to the following amendments.

126.1 Item 11 Salaries

RESOLVED: (i) To remove the overtime element from the proposed budget and any overtime incurred to be taken from reserves

(ii) To set a total salaries and travel budget of £41913

(iii) To delete line 11a staffing contingency

127 TOTAL BUDGET

RESOLVED: That the total budget is set at £174340

128. PRECEPT UPON THE TAX AUTHORITY

RESOLVED: That the precept upon Stratford District Council be declared to be £174340

It was noted that Council Tax payable for a D Band property will be £73.72 which equates to the last three years and will not result in an increase in council tax.

The meeting closed at 10.30pm